

Convention Workbook - Part II



“Imagine ... Living as God’s Loved and Compassionate Community”

101st Michigan District Convention

Concordia University Ann Arbor

June 28–30, 2015

- Section 1: Convention Agenda (Cream)
- Section 2: 2015 Proposed Special Standing Rules (Gray)
- Section 3: Convention Nominations (Green)
- Section 4: District Reports (Yellow)
- Section 5: Resolutions (White)

AGENDA

Michigan District Convention

June 28 – 30, 2015



Sunday, June 28 – “*IMAGINE ... Living as God’s Loved and Compassionate Community*”

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
1:00-7:00 p.m.	Registration (and after Opening Service until 10:00 p.m.)	Student Union
3:00-5:00	Floor Committee Open Hearings	Krieger Hall
3:00-6:30	Ministry Tent Open	West Campus Parking Lot
4:00-6:00	Music by <i>Vintage Gap</i>	Near Ministry Tent
	Picnic dinner available	
	<i>Sponsored by Lutheran Benefits Group</i>	
5:00-5:30	Delegate Orientation (Option I)	Convention Hall
7:00	Opening Service	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
	The Preacher: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS President	
	<i>Reception following the service</i>	Lawn area outside Chapel

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Monday, June 29 – *IMAGINE ... Living, Witnessing, Caring According to our Calling*

Ministry Tent Open – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Time	Activity	Location
6:30 a.m.	Morning Walk with Concordia Health Plans	Common area outside Chapel
7:00-8:00	Breakfast	Cafeteria
7:00-Noon	Registration	Student Union
7:30-8:00	Delegate Orientation (Option II)	Convention Hall
8:15-9:00	Opening Devotions The Preacher: Rev. Joshua Ketelsen, Holy Cross, Onaway	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
9:10-9:30	Registration Report – Mrs. Susan Grese Official Opening – Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier Introduction of Parliamentarian – Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig Adoption of Agenda and Standing Rules Greetings and Welcome from Concordia University Dr. Patrick Ferry – Concordia University President Orientation – Rev. John Bookshaw, Convention Committee Chairman	Convention Hall
9:30-9:45	Committee on New & Revised Constitutions – Rev. Ted Voll Reception of Congregations, Ministers of Religion Ordained and Commissioned who have joined the Synod in the past triennium (printed report)	
9:45-10:15	District President's Address Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier	
10:15-10:40	Nominations Committee – Rev. Thomas Fischer, Chairman Elections Committee – Rev. Robert Appold, Chairman Elections of District President/Vice Presidents/Board/Committees, etc.	
10:40-10:55	Break	
10:55-11:05	Concordia Health Plan Mr. Jim Sanft, President & Chief Executive Officer	
11:05-12:05 p.m.	Essay/Bible Study Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	
12:05-1:15	Lunch/Ministry Tent ▪ Caucus for election of advisory ordained delegates to LCMS Convention	Cafeteria/Manor Tent Convention Hall
1:15-1:20 p.m.	Devotions Rev. Ryan Peterson, CUAA Campus Pastor/Asst. Professor of Theology	Convention Hall

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Time	Activity	Location
1:20-1:25	Greetings from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne Rev. Randall Wurschmidt, Admission Counselor Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President	
1:25-1:30	Ratify Circuit Visitors slate	
1:30-2:15	Elections continued	
2:15-2:35	Break	
2:35-3:20	Floor Committee 1	
3:20-3:35	Elections continued, if needed	
3:35-3:40	Current Ministry Information from Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) <i>MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term)</i> <i>Lutheran Special Education Ministry</i>	
3:40-4:10	Bible Study Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President	
4:10-4:30	Break	
4:30-4:50	Floor Committee 3	
4:50-5:10	District Ministry Presentation	
5:10-5:45	Floor Committee 2	
5:45-5:50	Michigan District Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support Rev. Daniel Ramthun, Chairman	
5:50-5:55	Closing Devotions Rev. John Rathje, CUAA Dean of Students	
5:55-6:00	Closing Announcements	
6:15	500th Anniversary Celebration Dinner (Pig Roast) Music by Linda Lee & Wild Bill (German Band)	
8:00	Possible Evening Session for Floor Committees, if needed (8:00 – 9:00 pm)	

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Tuesday, June 30 – *IMAGINE ... The Church Militant ... The Church Triumphant*

Ministry Tent Open – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Time	Activity	Location
6:30 a.m.	Morning Walk with Concordia Health Plans	Common area outside Chapel
7:00-8:00	Breakfast	Cafeteria
8:15-9:15	Memorial Service	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
	The Preacher: Rev. Robert Zagore, Trinity, Traverse City	
	<i>Brunch following service for family members of those honored at the Memorial Service</i>	Earhart Manor living room
9:30-10:30	Essay/Bible Study	Convention Hall
	Rev. Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	
10:30-10:35	Current Ministry Information from Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs)	
	<i>Lutherans for Life</i>	
	<i>Lutheran Heritage Foundation</i>	
10:35-10:50	Break	
10:50-11:25	Floor Committee 3	
11:25-11:40	Church Extension Fund	
	Mr. Ronald Steinke, President and CEO	
11:40-11:55	<i>Here We Stand</i> Presentation	
	Mr. Ray Zavada, Assistant to the President – Development	
11:55-Noon	Floor Committee 1 – <i>Here We Stand</i> resolution vote	
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Lunch/Ministry Tent	Cafeteria/Manor Tent
1:30-1:35	Devotions	Convention Hall
	Rev. John L. Bush, CUAA Director of Donor Relations	
1:35-1:55	Floor Committee 2	
1:55-2:00	Lutheran High Schools in Michigan Report	
2:00-2:10	Omnibus Resolutions	
2:10-2:30	Wellspring Lutheran Services - Mr. David Gehm, President & CEO	
2:30-2:50	Floor Committee 3	
2:50-3:10	Break	
3:10-3:50	DVD and Q&A Time - Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President	
3:50-3:53	Current Ministry Information from Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs)	
	<i>Octane Youth Ministry</i>	
3:53-3:55	Campus Ministry Report	
	Rev. Jonathon Bakker, Senior Pastor, Zion, Mt. Pleasant	

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Time	Activity	Location
3:55-4:15	Concordia University – Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry	
4:15-4:35	Floor Committee 1	
4:35-4:40	Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Ms. Willie Marie Henry, Michigan District President	
4:40-4:45	Lutheran Laymen’s League Mr. John Raffel, Michigan District President	
4:45-5:00	Floor Committee wrap-up, if needed	
5:00-5:15	Treasurer’s Report Mr. William Young, Treasurer Mr. Chad Woltemath, Assistant to the President - Business/Finance	
5:15-5:20	Closing of the Convention Final Registration Report – Mrs. Susan Grese Closing Convention Video	
5:20-5:25	Prayer & Adjournment – Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier	
5:45	Service of Sending and Installation The Preacher: Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, District President	Chapel of the Holy Trinity
7:00	Dinner (boxes available)	

Wednesday, July 1 – IMAGINE ... Living as God’s Loved and Compassionate Community

Time	Activity	Location
7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Cafeteria

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Section 2 - 2015 Proposed Special Standing Rules

1. The Convention shall adopt the Tentative Daily Agenda printed in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
2. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
3. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
4. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall (a) state his name, (b) the name of his congregation or administrative unit he represents, and (c) the city or town where it is located.
5. Any person eligible to speak is limited to one two-minute turn on any given issue, except for the person or committee who made the motion, who will be entitled to two minutes after debate is closed.
6. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
7. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
8. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair may also call for a keypad vote or raising of the right hand.
9. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two minutes to present rationale for not considering the proposed substitute, after which the convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute.
 - If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails.
 - If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is an adaptation of the so-called “Behnken Rule” for addressing substitute motions used at the synodical convention.)
10. Whenever possible, substitute resolutions and amendments to proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the secretary in advance of the proposed resolution’s introduction to the convention. When this is not possible, a written copy of the proposed substitute motion or amendment shall be provided to the secretary immediately after it is offered from the floor.
11. Any amendment exceeding ten (10) words must be submitted in writing to the chair.
12. A motion to close debate (“call the question”) shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
13. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
14. In the sessions of the last day, the chair shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which in his judgment must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.

15. Out of respect for others, and in order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following guidance shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar devices. **In all cases where use is permitted, the sound producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used.** (NO personal extension cords will be allowed on the convention floor.) Please see chart below.

Attendees in Convention Hall	Type of Usage Permitted In Designated Area			
	Voice	Text Message	Laptop Computers for communication, e.g. e-mail or Internet, etc.	Laptop Computers - no communication, e.g. e-mail or Internet, etc.
Voting & Advisory Delegates	No	No	No	Yes
BOD & Special Guests	No	Yes, convention business only	Yes	Yes
All Other Guests	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Convention Staff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

16. The convention will be streamed via an online service that both broadcasts and archives the video and audio of the proceedings. Portions of the convention will be made available online for post-convention on-demand viewing. **Participant Release:** Participants who choose to engage in the proceedings of the convention give the Michigan District, LCMS implicit permission to record, broadcast, transcribe, and publish the audio and video. No signed releases are required.

- **Recording Authorization:** Unauthorized audio and/or video recordings of the convention proceedings are strictly prohibited. Permission to record must be sought prior to the recording process. Private recording is not allowed without written permission. The convention chair is authorized to request that the recording be stopped.
- **Transcriptions:** Approval must be obtained from convention chair with the understanding that the recording is ONLY for transcription purpose unless otherwise cleared (as in the policy above).
- **Transcription Publication:** Publication of any record requires the approval of all participants whose material is represented in the record. Permission request and subsequent authorization is the exclusive responsibility of the requester.
- **Copyright:** The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod maintains ownership of the copyright.

17. No new business or motion for reconsideration may be offered on the last day of the convention. New business includes, but not exhaustively, substitute motions and original overtures.
18. Unless covered by these Special Standing Rules, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised*.

Section 3 - 2015 Convention Nominations

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NOMINATIONS 2015

* Incumbent

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

(Vote for 1)

Craig L. Bickel

4675 Oakwright Dr NE, Ada MI 49301

Age 48

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia, Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, Pensacola, Fla.; Pastor, Peace, Shelby Twp.; Senior Administrative Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids

District: Youth and Family Ministry Board, Southern District; Michigan District Board of Directors

Community: Van Andel Research Institute – Institution Review Board and IBC committee

Dean M. Davenport

14175 Farmington, Livonia MI 48154

Age: 50

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.S., Michigan State University; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church and School; Senior Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia.

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Chair, Professional Church Workers Conference

Synod: Convention delegate (2007, 2010)

Other: Board of Directors, Lutheran High School Association of Detroit; Chaplain – LHM Men's Retreat

*** David P. E. Maier**

6200 Meyer Ave, Brighton MI 48116

Age 58

Current Position: District President

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia, Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; Honorary Doctorates, St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa, Concordia University Ann Arbor; D.D., Concordia University Wisconsin

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, Our Savior, Marlette; Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Arlington Heights Ill.; Administrative Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing

Circuit: Mission Representative; Circuit Visitor

District: President; Vice President; Family Life Board; Circuit Visitor Conference Chairman; Board of Directors; 125th Anniversary Steering Committee

Synod: Synod Convention Floor Committee on Worship Matters; Synod Convention Floor Committee on Seminary and University Education; Council of Presidents Vice-Chairman; Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program Committee; Resolution #4-04A Task Force

Community: Kiwanis Club; Pregnancy Services of Michigan

Other: Wellspring Lutheran Services Task Force; Dean, Camp Arcadia

Paul R. Naumann

1749 Greenbriar Dr, Portage MI 49024

Age: 56

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Portage

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia College, Ann Arbor; M.Div. and S.T.M., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; D.Min., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Associate Pastor, Trinity, Oshkosh, Wis.; Campus Pastor, Assistant Professor of Theology, Concordia University Wisconsin; Senior Pastor, St. Michael, Portage.

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Pastors Conference Committee; District Youth Committee

Community: Police Chaplain; Psychiatric Hospital Chaplain

Other: President's Advisory Council / Board of Regents—Concordia University Ann Arbor

Bryan R. Salminen

702 E Walker, St. John MI 48879

Age: 55

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Johns, St. Johns

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia, Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary; M.Ed., University of Toledo; Ph.D., St. Louis University.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, Holy Cross, Collinsville, Ill.; Professor, Concordia University Ann Arbor; Professor of Pastoral Counseling, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Pastor, Emmanuel, Cadillac; Senior Pastor, St. Johns, St. Johns.

District: Director of Worker Care; Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support

Other: Licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist; Member, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy; Author, *No Ordinary Men*, CPH. Adjunct faculty, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne and Concordia University, Wisconsin.

VICE PRESIDENT - Metro East Region
(Vote for 1)

*** John M. Duerr**

31415 Saratoga Ave, Warren MI 48093

Age: 59

Current Position: Pastor, Hope, Warren

Education/Degrees/Honors: M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Mission Developer, Good Shepherd, Chiefland, Fla.; Pastor of Discipleship and Youth Ministries, St. Peter, Lodi, Calif.; Pastor, Concordia, Cerritos, Calif.; Pastor, Hope, Warren, Mich.

District: CNH District Board of Youth, District Youth Gathering chairman; program chair of the CNH District Great Commission Convocation; Board of Stewardship, Continuing Education Committee; Metro-East Regional/Fourth Vice President, District Board of Directors; president's representative to CEF Board of Trustees.

Synod: LCMS Convention delegate

Community: Warren Consolidated Schools Sex-Education Task Force

VICE PRESIDENT - Metro West Region
(Vote for 1)

Erwin M. Hutter

24904 Hayes St, Taylor MI 48180

Age: 52

Current Position: Pastor, Our Redeemer, Taylor

Education/Degrees/Honors: A.A., Delta College; B.A., Saginaw Valley State University; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, Our Redeemer, Taylor

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: South and East Pastor's Conference Committee; Southeast Michigan District International
Lutheran Layman's League Pastoral Advisor, Vicarage Supervisor.

Synod: LCMS Convention pastoral delegate

Community: Taylor School District Revitalization Task Force; Michigan Crossroads Council-Boy Scouts of
Americas High Adventure Chairman; Camp Rotary Properties Committee

Other: Township Clerk, Bay County Historical Society Board

*** Donald O. Neuendorf**

41 Pine Brae Dr, Ann Arbor MI 48105

Age: 57

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor

Education/Degrees/Honors: Concordia University Ann Arbor; B.S., Concordia University Nebraska; M.Div.,
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; M.S., Congregational Leadership and
Administration, Concordia University Ann Arbor

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, St. John, Black River Falls, Wis.; Pastor, Immanuel, Saginaw; Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Ann
Arbor

Circuit: North Wisconsin District Board of Parish Services; Michigan District All Pastors' Conference
Chairman

District: Michigan District 2nd Vice President

Community: Lutheran Homes of Michigan Board of Directors; Wellspring Lutheran Services Board of
Directors;

Other: Lutherans For Life

VICE PRESIDENT- North and East Region
(Vote for 1)

*** Mark D. Brandt**

9042 W. Tuscola, Frankenmuth MI 48734

Age: 60

Current Position: Lead Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Education/Degrees/Honors: M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Outstanding Alumnus Award, Concordia University Ann Arbor

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Lead Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Chairman, North and West Pastors' Conference; District Mission and Ministry Commission; Board of Directors; District Vice President

Synod: LCMS Convention delegate

Community: Little League Coach; AYSO soccer ref; Rotary Club president

Other: LLL Zone Pastoral Advisor

Stephen P. Starke

1704 Amelith Rd, Bay City MI 48706

Age: 59

Current Position: Pastor, St. John Amelith, Bay City.

Education/Degrees/Honors: A.A., Concordia University, Ann Arbor; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; Honorary Doctor of Letters, Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.; Honorary Doctor of Divinity, Concordia University Wisconsin; Litt.D, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Assistant Pastor, St. John, Chicago; Pastor, Grace, Middletown, Conn.; Pastor, St. John, Bay City.

Circuit: Circuit Visitor; Pastoral Advisor, LCMS Community Good Friday Service.

District: First Vice President, New England District

Synod: Chairman, Hymnody Committee for Lutheran Service Book; 4-times LCMS Convention pastoral delegate.

Community: Director, Grace Lutheran Preschool; Michigan blood donor.

Other: Author: *O Sing of Christ* (122 original hymn texts), CPH; Hymn Selection Committee, '98 Hymnal Supplement.

VICE PRESIDENT- West Region
(Vote for 1)

*** David A. Davis**

1895 Penobscot, Okemos MI 48864

Age: 57

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia College, Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Pastoral Leadership Institute; PLI Governance and Executive Training

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Pastor, St. Matthew, Spring Lake; Pastor, St. Paul, Trenton; Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids; Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett.

Circuit: Mission Coordinator; Church planter, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Ferrysburg and Grace, Coopersville; Chairman, Exploratory Committee, West Michigan Lutheran High School, Grand Rapids

District: Chairman, Board for Mission Development; Task Force on Reorganization; Ablaze Coordinator; Southwest Detroit Mission; Chairman, Lutheran Adult Gathering Committee; West Region Vice President; Chair, Michigan District Board of Directors

Synod: LCMS Convention delegate

Community: Health Advisory Committee, Spring Lake; Downtown Pastors' Group, Grand Rapids

Other: LLL Retreat chaplain and CEF Representatives' Conference; Sectional Leader, Lutheran Adult Gathering; Participant in Mission Opportunities Short Term.

David C. Fleming

Address: 1888 Ridgemoor Dr SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506

Age: 55

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Drake University; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; Michigan Assoc. of Non-public Schools 2011 Rev. John B. Zwiers Award.

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Graduate Assistant, Concordia Theological Seminary; Pastor, Good Shepherd, Warrenville, Ill.; Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids

Circuit: Circuit Secretary

District: Northern Illinois District Youth Board; NID Church Professionals Recruitment Committee; President, Central Regional Pastors' Conference, NID; Planning Committee, West Region Pastoral Conference; President, Michigan District West Region Pastors' Conference

Synod: Lectionary Subcommittee for Lutheran Service Book

Community: Secretary, Warrenville Persons in Ministry

Other: LLL Zone Counselor; LWML Zone Counselor; Lutherans for Life Zone Counselor; Committee for the Commission on Worship Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, & Church Music; West Michigan Lutheran High School Board of Directors; Doxology Collegium for the support of care of pastors and congregations; Chaplain, West Africa LCMS Missionaries Conference, Ghana. Counselor; Commission on Worship Institute on Liturgy Committee; Preaching, & Church Music; Lectionary Subcommittee for Lutheran Service Book; West MI Lutheran HS Board of Directors.

DISTRICT SECRETARY
(Vote for 1)

*** David Reed**

816 E Bay St, Sebewaing MI 48759

Age 64

Current Position: Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Sebewaing

Education: Concordia University Seward; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Service: Teacher, Trinity, Fremont Neb.; Pastor, Prince of Peace, Crystal Lake, Ill.; Pastor, Trinity, Indianapolis, Ind.; Pastor, Grace, Auburn; Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Sebewaing

Circuit: Circuit Visitor; *The Future Is Now* Circuit Coordinator

District: Secretary, Board for Christian Care

Synod: Introductory Committee for Lutheran Service Book; Convention Delegate

Community: Lions Club

Other: Convention Chair, Lutherans for Life; Lutheran High School Board of Directors

DISTRICT TREASURER
(Vote for 1)

Jeremy Frank

4700 Frank Road, Frankenmuth MI 48734

Age 43

Current Position: Executive Director for St. Lorenz Church and School

Home Congregation: St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Ministry Council; Treasurer

Other: Crossroads Counseling Treasurer; Public and Corporate Accounting experience

Bonnie Mann

1027 Plum Grove Drive, Monroe MI 48161

Age 63

Current Position: Retired Accountant

Home Congregation: Trinity, Monroe

Education: College training

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

District: Member of the Michigan District Endowment Advisory Council

Congregation: Part-time Finance Manager at Trinity, Monroe

Other: Served as Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the Ohio District, LCMS for 15 years

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Metro West Region

Ordained Ministers (Vote for 1)

*** Paul Moldenhauer**

2020 South Commerce, Walled Lake MI 48390

Age 59

Current Position: Administrative Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake

Education: Concordia University Ann Arbor; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

Circuit: Program Director; Evangelism Representative

District: Evangelism Board; Mission & Ministry Commission; Board of Directors

Community: Citizens Advisory School Board; Rotary

Other: Lutherans for Life Pastoral Advisor

Thomas Schroeder

13099 Petersberg Road, Milan MI 48160

Age 64

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Christ Our King, Saline

Education: Concordia University Ann Arbor; Concordia University Chicago; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Board of Evangelism

Community: Mill Pond Manor Board of Directors; Brecon Village Chaplain

Other: LWML Pastoral Advisor; LLL State Counselor

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)

Daniel Burk

6951 Fenton Street, Dearborn Heights MI 48127

Age 35

Current Position: Principal, Christ The King, Southgate

Home Congregation: Christ The King, Southgate

Education: Lutheran High School Westland; Concordia University Wisconsin; Currently enrolled at Concordia University Chicago, Educational Doctoral Program: Educational Leadership

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Public Relations Chair; Evangelism Chair

District: School Committee member; Principal Conference Committee Treasurer

Other: Adjunct Professor at Concordia University Ann Arbor

John Hinck

41950 Trent Court, Canton MI 48188

Age 62

Current Position: Teacher

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Westland

Education: Minneapolis Lutheran High School; Concordia University Seward

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Adult Bible Study Leader; Church Organist; Contemporary Praise Team

Layperson (Vote for 2)

Scott Beam

4950 Rayfore Drive, Commerce Twp MI 48382

Age 55

Current Position: Engineer

Education: University of Michigan, Lawrence University

Home Congregation: Christ, Milford

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Congregation Executive Director; Board of Elders Chairman; Board of Church Properties, Church Trustee; Choir member; Puppet Ministry

Community: High School Band Boosters President; Scoutmaster

Bruce Glennie

22214 Long Blvd, Dearborn MI 48124-1147

Age 66

Current Position: Retired Engineer

Education: Lutheran High School Westland, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Home Congregation: Guardian, Dearborn

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Other: Air Force Veteran

Jim Riske

2987 Meadowbrook Lane, Windsor ONT, CANADA

Age 38

Current Position: Principal/Teacher, Holy Ghost, Monroe

Education: Lutheran High School East, University of Michigan, Concordia University Chicago

Home Congregation: Holy Ghost, Monroe

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Principal/Teacher

District: Convention Delegate

Other: Lutheran Student Fellowship Regional President; University Lutheran Chapel Ann Arbor Alumni Association Board Member; Republican nominee for Michigan House of Representatives

Gary Witt

16795 Renwick, Livonia MI 48154

Age 69

Current Position: Retired Chief Engineer, Materials Engineering – Ford Motor Co.

Education: Iowa State University; University of Michigan

Home Congregation: Christ Our Savior, Livonia

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Elder; Constitution Committee; Financial Chairman; Building Committee; Small Group Bible Study leader

Community: Home Civic Association President; Professional Societies Officer; Materials Engineer Advisory Commission; Livonia High School Career Intern Program Sponsor

North & East Region

Ordained Ministers (Vote for 1)

Daniel Meckes

3033 Wilder Road, Bay City MI 48706

Age 55

Current Position: Administrative Pastor, Faith, Bay City

Education: Concordia University Chicago; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: DCE and Pastor

Circuit: Evangelism Representative

District: Stewardship Committee; Floor Committee for the District Convention; PALS Facilitator; All District Pastors' Conference Chairman

Synod: Convention Delegate

Community: Habitat for Humanity; Camp Restore–New Orleans; Clergy Association; Chamber of Commerce

Other: LWML Zone Counselor

*** Paul Theiss**

2704 Ziegler Road, Bay City MI 48706

Age 65

Current Position: Administrative Pastor, St. Paul, Bay City

Education: Concordia University Wisconsin; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

Circuit: Circuit Visitor; Circuit Mission Coordinator; Program Committee

District: Convention Registrar; Convention Nominating Committee, District Secretary; 125th Anniversary Planning Committee; Floor Committee; Committee on Circuit Reorganization; All District Pastors' Conference Chairman; Board of Directors

Synod: Convention Delegate; Convention Nominating Committee

Community: Michigan State Police Chaplain; Bay Regional Medical Center Volunteer Chaplain; Right to Life Board of Directors; Lutheran Day School Accreditation Committee

Other: Saginaw Valley Pastor/Teacher Conference Chairman; LLL Pastoral Advisor; LWML Pastoral Advisor

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)

*** Eric Hagenow**

2323 N. Raucholz Road, Hemlock MI 48626

Age 41

Current Position: Principal/Teacher/Athletic Director, St. Peter, Hemlock

Education: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; Concordia University Ann Arbor

Home Congregation: St. Peter, Hemlock

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Principal, Teacher, Athletic Director

District: Board of Directors

Other: Concordia University Ann Arbor Board of Regents

Debora Stark

149 Ashby Road, Midland MI 48640

Age 54

Current Position: DCE-Director of Outreach

Education: Wartburg College; Concordia University St. Paul, Minn.; Concordia University Ann Arbor

Home Congregation: St. John, Midland

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: DCE-Director of Outreach

Community: Faith-Based Committee to help people in financial need; Dow High School Parent Music Organization; Grant Writer for Public Schools Music Program

Layperson (Vote for 2)*** Dale Gust**

2814 S. Coldwater Road, Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Age 76

Current Position: Retired College Professor

Education: Colorado State University; University of North Dakota

Home Congregation: Zion, Mt. Pleasant

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Director of Congregation; Board of Elders; Board of Evangelism; Board of Education; Board of Campus Ministry; Board of Trustees; Board of Stewardship; Capital Campaign, Chairman; Chior member; Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent

District: Board of Directors; Convention Delegate; Floor Committee

Synod: Convention Delegate

Community: Isabella Community Credit Union Board of Directors Chairman; Band Boosters President

Other: Concordia University Ann Arbor Board of Regents

Michael Nuechterlein

560 Frederick Street, Frankenmuth MI 48734

Age 72

Current Position: Retired Attorney

Education: University of Michigan

Home Congregation: St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Congregation President; Stewardship Chairman; Capital Building Campaign Chairman

District: Florida/Georgia Board of Directors

Other: Frankenmuth Rotary Board of Directors

John Nutzmam

11878 Parklane, Mt. Morris MI 48458

Age 66

Current Position: Retired Teacher, now Substitute Teacher for Clio Schools

Education: Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant

Home Congregation: Messiah, Clio

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Congregation Chairman; Financial Secretary; Stewardship Disciple; Elder; Confirmation Teacher; Lay Reader

Circuit: Mission Action Council Member

District: Convention Delegate; Floor Committee; Nominating Committee

Synod: Convention Delegate

Community: School Improvement Committee; School Negotiations Committee; Mt. Morris Athletic Boosters; Mt. Morris Football Announcer; Mt. Morris Basketball Time keeper

Other: AAL Branch Vice President; Thrivent Congregational Advocate and Branch Coordinator

Jeffrey Reinbold

9806 Wadsworth Road, Saginaw MI 48601

Age 58

Current Position: District Sales Manager for Great Lakes Hybrids

Education: Attended College

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Saginaw

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Congregation Chairman; Elder, Stewardship Committee; Sunday School Superintendent; School Board

Other: Involved in Agricultural Management

CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LCMS Rostered persons (Vote for 2)

*** Robert Appold**

8653 Lilly Ridge Drive SE, Alto MI 49302

Age 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

Education: Concordia University Chicago; Concordia Seminary St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor, Holy Trinity, Saskatchewan; Pastor, All Saints, Alberta; Pastor, Trinity-St. James, Munger;
Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing; District Planned Giving Counselor

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Board of Evangelism; District Pastors Conference Planning Committee; CEF Board; District
Convention Committee

Community: Holt High School Booster Club Member; Whitneyville Home Owners Association Secretary;
Little League Baseball Coach

Other: Camp Arcadia LLL Chaplain; LWML and LLL Bible Study leader

Eric Cloeter

509 Butler Street, Clio MI 48420

Age 43

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Education: Concordia University St. Paul, Minn.; Concordia Seminary St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor, Bethlehem, Wales, Wis.; Assistant Pastor, Messiah, Clio

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: PCW Conference Planning Committee; A2E Flint Pastoral Advisor

Other: LWML Pastoral Advisor

Ian McDonald

14844 Inkster Road, Redford MI 48239

Age 63

Current Position: Assistant Principal, Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills

Home Congregation: Our Shepherd, Birmingham

Education: Concordia University Chicago

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Teacher/Dean of Students, Lutheran East, Cleveland, Ohio; Teacher/Youth/Principal, Faith,
Hialeah, Fla.; Teacher/Coach, St. John's, Buckley, Ill.; Teacher/Coach/Principal, Fox Valley, Elgin,
Ill.; Guidance Director, Lutheran High School Northwest, Rochester Hills

District: Secretary/Treasurer, Church Extension Fund Board; LEA Board of SECnet

*** Julian Petzold**

24752 Victoria Court, Harrison Twp MI 48045

Age 44

Current Position: Assistant Principal, Trinity, Clinton Twp.

Home Congregation: Trinity, Clinton Twp.

Education: Concordia University Chicago; Oakland University; Western Michigan University

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Teacher, St. John, Forest Park, Ill.; Teacher/Coach, St. John, Rochester; Teacher/EC Director,
Living Word, Rochester; Principal/EC Director, Trinity, St. Joseph

District: Church Extension Fund Board; Early Childhood Committee

Laypersons (Vote for 3)

Suzanne Baglow

1968 Greenmeadow Drive, Walled Lake MI 48390

Age 51

Current Position: Church Accountant

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Walled Lake

Education: Bachelors' Degree in Accounting

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Active role in the annual budget process for church and school

Julie Hoegeman

53345 Abraham, Macomb MI 48042

Age 47

Current Position: Chief Financial Officer, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Home Congregation: St. Peter, Macomb

Education: B.A. in Accounting; MBA; CPA

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Board of Education Chair

Other: International Student Program Director

Kurt Kuck

370 Winthrop Lane, Saginaw MI 48638

Age 57

Current Position: VP/Chief Financial Officer, KUKA Assembly and Test Corp.

Home Congregation: Peace, Saginaw

Education: Western Michigan University

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Board of Directors; Board of Elders

Other: Lutheran Homes Board of Directors

Eric Prisby

44165 Terricar Lane, Clinton Twp MI 48038

Age 44

Current Position: Sr. Vice President, Treasury Management Sales Team Leader

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Macomb

Education: Wayne State University

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Board of Elders; Financial Task Force Chairman; Congregation Financial Reviews

Community: Detroit Treasury Management Association member; Michigan Association of CPA's

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 2015 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION

Metro East Region

Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)

*** Thomas Fischer**

2930 Hessel Avenue, Rochester Hills MI 48307

Age 57

Current Position: Pastor, Gethsemane, Rochester Hills

Education: Concordia University Ann Arbor; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor; First Responder Chaplains

Circuit: St. Paul, Pontiac Circuit Support; Midland Circuit Mission Council

Synod: LCEF Capital Funding Services

Community: Midland County Right to Life; GoodLife Community Partnership; After School Enrichment in Rochester Community Schools

Kenneth Wise

20325 Dunham Road, Clinton Twp MI 48038

Age 53

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Trinity, Clinton Twp.

Education: Valparaiso University; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

District: District Pastors' Conference Planning Committee

Other: Lutheran High School Association Board member

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)

*** Terry Davis**

23775-24 Mile Road, Macomb MI 48042

Age 69

Current Position: Retired Lutheran Principal

Education: Concordia University Chicago

Home Congregation: St. Peter, Macomb

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Elder; teaches Bible class; visits shut-ins

District: Michigan District Principals Chairman; S & E Lutheran Teachers Conference Committee; Macomb Principals; District Nominating Committee; Deacon Training Faculty

Community: Hunter Safety Instructor

Other: Lutheran Special Education Ministries Board of Directors; Lutheran High School Association congregational representative

Layperson (Vote for 1)

Laura Davis

555 Brush #2710, Detroit MI 48226

Age 31

Current Position: Attorney

Education: University of Michigan

Home Congregation: Historic Trinity, Detroit

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Assisted in forming Bible Study groups

Other: Volunteer trips with MOST Ministries to Guatemala and with LCMS World Mission to Macau;

Wrote blog for Lutheran Heritage Foundation during internship in Istanbul, Turkey

*** Philip Fluegge**

14419 Knightsbridge, Shelby Twp MI 48316

Age 55

Current Position: Investment Advisor

Education: Babson College, Wellesley, Mass.

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Macomb

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Chairman, Vice-Chairman; Elder; Co-Chairman of Capitol Drive; Confirmation mentor

District: District Nominating Committee

Synod: Concordia Plan Services Board of Directors and Board of Trustees

Community: Zoning Board of Appeals

Other: Lutheran Heritage Foundation Board of Directors and Treasurer; Historic Trinity Inc. Board member

Metro West Region

Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)

Andrew Gruenhagen

38580 Shelby, Westland MI 48186

Age 40

Current Position: Pastor, St. Michael, Wayne

Education: Concordia University Chicago; Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

Community: Wayne County Police Chaplain; Richfield Twp. Public Library Board member; Thrivent Chapter Congregational Coordinator

Steven Newberg

229 Ambler Drive, Brooklyn MI 49230

Age 31

Current Position: Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison

Education: Hillsdale College, Hillsdale; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

District: District Convention Floor Committee

Community: Young Life

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)

Matthew Dumann

164 Berkley, Dearborn MI 48124

Age 32

Current Position: Principal, Guardian, Dearborn

Education: Concordia University Wisconsin

Home Congregation: Guardian, Dearborn

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Principal; Teacher

District: Atlantic District Board of Directors; Atlantic District Floor Committees

Layperson (Vote for 1)

*** Philip Krauss II**

32223 Bertram, Westland MI 48185

Age 54

Current Position: Higher Education Administration

Education: Adrian College; Marygrove College

Home Congregation: Christ Our Savior, Livonia

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Congregational Personnel Committee; Bible Study leader

District: District Nominating Committee

Other: International Lutheran Layman's League Chairman; Boy Scouts volunteer; Red Cross volunteer

Weldon Schwiebert

402 North Hanlon, Westland MI 48185

Age 72

Current Position: Retired

Education: Attended Airline Training School

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Westland

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Other: Lutheran Layman's League President and Regional Governor; Lutheran Heritage Foundation Board member; Lutheran Homes of Michigan

North & East Region

Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)

*** Paul Hinz**

5765 Tittabawassee Road, Saginaw MI 48604

Age 54

Current Position: Associate Pastor, Peace, Saginaw

Education: Concordia University Bronxville; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

District: District Nominating Committee; Stewardship Editorial Committee

Synod: His Love/Our Response Project Coordinator

Community: Ask the Pastor Television program; Saginaw Chamber of Commerce; Youth League coach for various sports

Other: Youth for Christ; Lutherans for Life; Lutheran Youth Encounter

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)

Stephanie Baarck

932 Eastgate Court, Frankenmuth MI 48734

Age 47

Current Position: Teacher, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Education: Concordia University Chicago

Home Congregation: St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Teacher; Science Olympiad Coach

Layperson (Vote for 1)

*** John Nutzmänn**

11878 Parklane, Mt. Morris MI 48458

Age 66

Current Position: Retired Teacher

Education: Central Michigan University

Home Congregation: Messiah, Clio

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Elder; Financial Secretary; Confirmation Teacher; Teller; Lay Reader

Circuit: Mission Action Council, Flint Tri-Circuits

District: District Nominating Committee; Convention Delegate; Convention Floor Committee

Synod: Convention Delegate

Community: School Improvement Committee; Mt. Morris Athletic Boosters

Other: Thrivent Congregational Advocate; AAL Branch Vice President

Patricia VanSteenhouse

1118 East Stewart Road, Midland MI 48640

Age 81

Current Position: Retired, Midland County Road Commission

Education: High School

Home Congregation: Lord of New Life, Midland

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Financial Secretary; Fellowship Committee Co-Chairman

Community: Township Board of Review Secretary

West Region

Ordained Minister (Vote for 1)

David Sidwell

3036 Valley Glenn Circle, Kalamazoo MI 49004

Age 58

Current Position: Pastor, Immanuel, Kalamazoo

Education: Oakland University; Concordia Seminary St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

Community: Boy Scouts of America

Ryan Wunningham

99 West 32nd Street, Holland MI 49423

Age 33

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Zion, Holland

Education: Concordia University Ann Arbor; Concordia Seminary St. Louis

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Pastor

District: District All Pastors' Conference Committee

Community: Holland Jazz Orchestra; Holland Underwater Hockey Club

Other: 70x7 Life Recovery Mentor

Commissioned Minister (Vote for 1)**Harry Helmreich**

1789 Fairfield Drive, Grawn MI 49637

Age 56

Current Position: Teacher

Education: Concordia University Chicago

Home Congregation: Trinity, Traverse City

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: School Technology Manager; Youth Director; Athletic Director

Bradley Massey

408 West Bellevue Street, Big Rapids MI 49307

Age 50

Current Position: Principal

Education: Concordia University Ann Arbor; Eastern Michigan University

Home Congregation: St. Peter's, Big Rapids

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Principal; Teacher

Layperson (Vote for 1)**William Boice**

17371 Lake Beach Drive, Spring Lake MI 49456

Age 72

Current Position: Retired Manufacturing Engineer

Education: Michigan State University

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Spring Lake

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Elder; Bible study leader

District: Convention Delegate; received John Herrmann Stewardship award

Community: Tri-Cities Habitat volunteer; Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts; US Army Reserves and officer

Other: Camp Arcadia fall staff at end of season; Siberian Lutheran Mission Society Board of Directors

Richard Greiner

PO Box #4, Dansville MI 48815

Age 68

Current Position: Semi-Retired Property Manager

Education: Attended College

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Holt

HISTORY OF SERVICE - PAST AND CURRENT:

Congregation: Mission & Endowment Boards Chairman; Treasurer

Other: MOST Ministries Treasurer; Camp Arcadia Board of Directors and Foundation Board; Lutherans
for Life

Section 4 - District Reports

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101st Convention of the Michigan District – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

June 28 –30, 2015

Ann Arbor, Michigan

District PRESIDENT'S REPORT



“IMAGINE ... Living as God’s Loved and Compassionate Community” is the theme for the 2015 Convention of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. It is based on *Ephesians 3:20-21*: “*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen*” ... and emphasizes the second of Synod’s three foci around which Synod ministries are organized: Witness, Mercy, and Life Together. We are not only to show “mercy” to one another within the body of Christ, but also to those who are not yet a part of our congregations. We demonstrate and share mercy; we invite and welcome through acts of mercy because Christ is extending Himself through us. The theme of the Michigan District 2012 Convention, **“IMAGINE ... Living as God’s Forgiven and Forgiving Family,”** emphasized “Life Together.” The theme for the 2018 Michigan District Convention will complete our emphasis on Synod’s 3 foci under the theme of **“IMAGINE ... Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants,”** highlighting our life and ministry as “Witnesses.”

This report is presented with the hope and prayer that we *imagine* what our congregations and members would look like as they are deliberately, through faith, speaking, acting, and *living as God’s loved and compassionate community*. May our faith and attitude reflect the vision of a “People of Hope,” inspired by our dependence on, devotion to, and commitment to the Word of God, worship, prayer, and each other which moves us to share the love of Christ with our family, friends, neighbors, communities, and the world.

District Ministry Direction

This past triennium began with the Michigan District Board of Directors reviewing the Board Policy Manual. We thank God for His guidance and direction as the board, made up of elected members—one pastor, one commissioned worker, and two lay people from each of the District’s four regions—met to look over the Michigan District Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and the Critical Targets. The **Mission Statement**, reflecting the Synod Mission Statement, is: “*In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches (congregations), communities and world.*” The **Vision Statement** is one of confident, hope-filled direction that comes from faith in Jesus Christ. It reads, “*Our congregations are filled to overflowing with people of HOPE! ... who continually give joyful, confident witness to the miraculous Christ. Our joy and confidence comes from our belief in the transforming power of the Gospel and the empowering Christ. Living transformed, empowered lives of faithfulness, harmony, and integrity, we display an ever-increasing dependence on, devotion to, and commitment to the Word of God, worship, prayer, and each other which moves us to take the love of Christ to our family, friends, neighbors, community and the world in word and deed.*” These mission and vision statements guided the direction of our planning and activities as we prepared for and executed ministry. As we strive to take the love of Christ into the world, our ministry direction is also framed by four **Critical Targets** that have also been established by the board of directors. “Critical Targets” inform our District staff as to what the board would like accomplished and established as one criteria for outcomes that allow for monitoring and measurement.

The first critical target is **Great Commission Ministry**. Being *People of Hope*, Michigan District congregations and ministries will share the Good News of Jesus with people who do not know Him.

The second critical target recognizes the importance of *living as God’s loved and compassionate community* through **Great Compassion Ministry**. This critical target reads: Being *People of Hope*, Michigan District

congregations and ministries will seek out and compassionately attend to people in need.

In the third critical target, **Healthy Congregations** are the focus. Healthy congregations intentionally bring Jesus to their communities and beyond. The third target reads: Being *People of Hope*, Michigan District congregations have Christ-centered ministries, loving and joyful atmospheres, and sustainable organizational systems.

The fourth and final critical target, **Healthy Church Workers**, recognizes and encourages the God-pleasing efforts of our professional church workers as we thank and praise God for them! Being *People of Hope*, Michigan District church workers have Christ-centered lives, loving and joyful spirits, and stable family and professional systems.

District Organization and Structure

As the District staff focuses upon the four critical targets and works to accomplish them, the board of directors uses a series of outcomes to monitor District ministry and, where possible, to measure it. Reports on the critical targets are presented at each board of directors' meeting.

In addition to the ecclesiastical supervision and administration of the President's office, there are five other departments that are overseen. The five departments are **Congregation Mission and Ministries, Lutheran Day Schools, Communications, Development, and Business/Finance**. Reports from each of these departments are included in the Workbook.

When Rev. Roosevelt Gray accepted God's call to serve as the head of Synod's Commission of Black Ministry, the District staff affirmed the **importance of our mission and evangelism efforts**. It was determined that one person should not be responsible for mission and evangelism efforts throughout the District. After prayerfully listening to pastors, congregation officers, and members, a different approach to ministry in the

District, and a re-deployment of Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators (CMMFs) into geographical zones took place. **Recognizing that ministry is accomplished at the congregational level**, CMMFs work to strengthen faithful ministry efforts among the local congregations in their zones. They also encourage creative, cooperative, and coordinated ministry efforts among local congregations.

We thank God for the men and women who lead these departments and for the privilege of serving the Michigan District together in ministry.

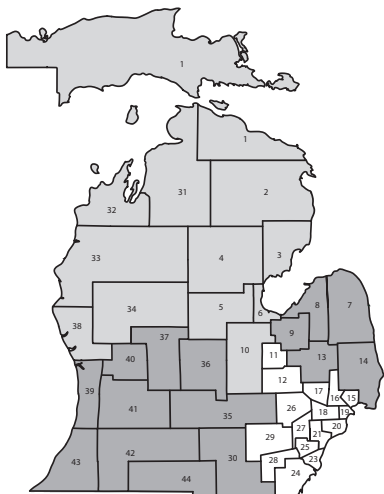
Other Thoughts and Considerations...

During the past three years, God has been gracious in His leading and in the many different ways He continues to bless the Michigan District. Under the direction and encouragement found in *Psalm 9 verse 1*: "*I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds,*" the following is a brief, but not exhaustive review, of a number of those blessings. Please join me in giving **"thanks to the Lord for"** ...

- Our **Michigan District congregations, their lay leaders and members**, who regularly come together to worship our Lord and Savior, celebrate the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and continue to be equipped to carry on the work of ministry and service, "*so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*" (*Ephesians 4:12, 13*). Having been in a number of our congregations over the past three years, I continually give thanks to the Lord for their unique characteristics, their diversity of gifts and assets, and particularly for their individual beauty as "the bride of Christ." Yet I am also grateful for our common confession of faith, our unity in the Gospel, and our Holy Spirit-wrought conviction in the power of its proclamation and administration as current members are discipled and new members are won by the Holy Spirit.

- Our **District pastors**, who continue to carry on vital and vibrant Gospel ministry in challenging times. Many of them have also, at their monthly circuit meetings or Winkels, graciously welcomed the CMMFs and me as we shared in Bible study and worship. In addition, we were often asked to give a report on the continuing work of our Lord in and through the ministries of the District.

- **All church workers** – Principals, teachers, and preschool directors; DCEs (Directors of Christian Education); DCOs (Directors of Christian Outreach); church musicians and the like, who train our children, enhance our lives with sound, Biblical teaching,



continually work to remove any obstacles from the clear proclamation of the Gospel, and enrich our worship experience. I also count it a privilege to be in ministry with you, and to attend your conferences when possible.

- The vibrant presence and assured hope-filled future of **Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA)** through the partnership with Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). We are blessed with the outstanding leadership of President Patrick Ferry and Mr. Curt Gielow.



- The willing spirit of the **Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs)** in the Michigan District to meet together as *Michigan Lutheran Leaders and Ministries (MLLM)*. As they meet to discuss the role that each has in contributing to the health and continuing vitality of God's kingdom and to discover what we can do better **TOGETHER** than we could ever imagine doing separately, we remember that God "... is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (*Ephesians 3:20*).

- The leadership of Mr. Dave Gehm at **Wellspring Lutheran Services** and the godly witness by all at Lutheran Child and Family Service and Lutheran Homes of Michigan as they overcame obstacles and brought separate ministries together for the greater good of others. We look forward to the benefits from the influence and efforts of Wellspring Lutheran Services for those in the State of Michigan.

- The many people working tirelessly through the Michigan District's **Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) Urban Ministry Initiative**. Although any urban ministry is full of unique challenges, I am grateful for those



who, with the help of God, see beyond the obstacles and challenges to the possibilities ... especially Rev. Christopher Bodley, Rev. Steven Essenberg, Rev. James Hill, Ms. Michele Jones, and Dr. Ingrid Draper, as well as the numerous others who seek out and compassionately attend to people in need as *People of Hope*.

- Mr. Ron Steinke, Mr. John Bates, Mr. Paul Wills, and the rest of the Michigan District **Church Extension Fund (CEF)** ministry team and their board of directors. Their expertise in running CEF, their resultant success under God's watchful eye, and their continued blessing to the Michigan District—even during times of economic uncertainty and adversity—is only exceeded by their ministry heart and vision for the expansion of God's Kingdom in the District.



- Those who planned, hosted, and participated in the Michigan District **Theological Conferences**. We especially thank God for the excellent speakers that have traveled to Michigan to present on the topics of Church, State & Culture; and Life in the Holy Spirit. As we continue to respond to requests of laity and clergy within the District, we look forward to sponsoring future theological conferences on helpful topics.
- The commitment, dedication, and hard work of those **who have served on the various conference committees**. You continue to challenge us with helpful conference topics that also direct us to Calvary's bloodstained cross and Easter's open tomb. I am also thankful for Ms. Debra Cameron, the District's Event Coordinator, who helps with the planning, and contributes to the overall blessing of these conferences in an efficient and effective manner.
- Our **Communications Department**, whose tireless efforts to promote the events and ministries of the District through webinars, enews, social media, blogging, and the *Michigan In Touch*, are a wonderful blessing to the Michigan District. They strive to share "Hope" stories from congregations, promote helpful resources, and brainstorm with other District leaders for continued effective communication avenues. I am grateful for the joyful service of Mrs. Debby Fall, Mr. Seth Hinz, Mr. Michael Beens, and Mrs. Elisa Schulz.

▪ **Rev. Harry Henneman**, for his many years of faithful service to the Michigan District as he assisted me with call list preparation. As he retired from his ministry at the Michigan District this year, we thank God for his joyful service and pray for God's leading in the future. I am looking forward to working with Rev. Wayne Wentzel who has begun the duties once filled by Rev. Henneman.

▪ **Dr. Bryan Salminen**, who joined the District staff as the Director of Worker Care, is a licensed psychologist and LCMS pastor. He was contracted to serve as a confidential counselor for professional church workers and has become an important part of District ministry. His advocacy for Church Worker Care and his ability and training to often guide it are invaluable.

▪ The particular blessing, partnership, and friendship that I've shared throughout this past triennium with the **Vice Presidents** of the Michigan District: First Vice President Mark Brandt, Second Vice President Donald Neuendorf, Third Vice President David Davis and Fourth Vice President John Duerr. These are wonderful men of God through whom the church is well served. I count it a distinct privilege and blessing to serve with them and greatly anticipate our time and discussions together. The District has been blessed by their service both regionally and collectively.

▪ The members of the **Michigan District Board of Directors**, for their leadership in the District and their hard work. Rev. David Davis has served admirably as Chairman of the board for the past few years, sharing some keen insight regarding policy-based governance. We look forward to the leadership of Mr. Stephen Boergert who was recently voted the new Chairman of the board. We also thank God for Rev. David Reed who expertly serves as Secretary of the District, and Mr. William Young who ably accomplished his duties as Treasurer of the District with the help of Mr. Chad Woltemath.

▪ For all our **Circuit Visitors**, who diligently work behind the scenes to facilitate the healthy ministries of local congregations and the continued well-being of the church workers in their circuit. For the many other individuals who, although unelected, volunteer their time and talents to serve others within the District on many of the task forces and committees of the District. As God has blessed our efforts in His Name in the past, He will surely continue to bless our efforts in the future.

▪ All of the **District staff**, many of whom have not yet been mentioned. They are a remarkable group of individuals who begin each work day with devotions that include daily prayers for one congregation or ministry in the District, four District church workers, and any special requests for personal concerns and

joys. Through the adopted *Holy Manners* covenant, the staff enjoys working together motivated by excellence in serving the Lord Jesus Christ, congregations, and professional church workers. I have been greatly blessed to work with such committed and dedicated brothers and sisters in Christ. In particular, I would invite you to join me in giving special gratitude to God for the service of Mrs. Julie Strobl, Executive Assistant to the President. Without her professional service, joyful demeanor, leadership, and attention to details, the ministry in the President's Office would not only be burdensome, but impossible.

▪ Last but not least, **my wife Pat**. She is a wonder, a blessing, an amazing support, my best friend, and a wonderful ministry partner. Her support of pastors' wives and her understanding of the role they can play in their husband's ministry, and the often difficult demands that can be placed on them, has proved invaluable. The Katie Conference, the conference for pastors' wives, has received her special attention, and is something she dearly loves. Please make it possible for your pastors' wife (maybe your wife) to attend this excellent opportunity for Bible study, fellowship, and fun. Pat is indeed a very special woman and I am thankful for, and have been energized by, her faith, her commitment, and her love.

In the years that lie ahead, before our next District Convention in 2018, may we make a special effort to read, meditate upon, and study the Word of God. There we will continue to find God's truth, a truth that will expose our sin and selfishness, and a truth that will show us the Savior who forgives our sin, enables us to see and confess our selfishness, and strengthens us to walk with the Spirit in our lives as we serve God and others. The world may be changing around us but the Word of God will anchor us in truth and allow us to appropriately adapt to, and communicate with, our family, our friends, our neighbors, and the world, the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May we pray, as we carry on ministry to the present generation and the generations yet to come, that God will not only bless our efforts, but that we will do what God wants to bless. As we give witness to one another and to a world desperate to know His Way, His Truth, and His Love in Christ Jesus our Lord, may we, as *People of Hope*, **IMAGINE... Living As God's Loved and Compassionate Community.**

To God be all the glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DISTRICT SECRETARY REPORT

Nominations to 2015 Michigan District Convention

May 1, 2015

The following nominations were received from the congregations of the Michigan District for consideration by the District Convention.

District President

Craig L. Bickel	1	Accepted
Dean M. Davenport	1	Accepted
David C. Fleming	5	Declined
Kenneth D. Lueke	1	Declined
David P. E. Maier	81	Accepted
Donald O. Neuendorf	1	Declined
Paul R. Naumann	1	Accepted
David H. Reed	1	Declined
Bryan R. Salminen	3	Accepted
Cameron K. Steele	1	Declined

Regional Vice Presidents

North and East Region

Clifford F. Bira	1	Accepted
Mark D. Brandt	18	Accepted
Kevin C. Jones	1	Accepted
Kenneth D. Lueke	1	Declined
Stephen P. Starke	2	Accepted
Leo G. Thoms	1	Accepted

Metro West Region

Jeffrey E. Heimsoth	1	Accepted
Paul W. Herter	1	Accepted
Erwin M. Hutter	1	Accepted
Eddie Morales	1	Accepted
Donald O. Neuendorf	11	Accepted

Metro East Region

John M. Duerr	16	Accepted
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West Region

David A. Davis	17	Accepted
David C. Fleming	4	Accepted
Bryan R. Salminen	3	Accepted
Paul H. Schneider	1	Accepted
Edward A. Sikora	2	Accepted

Total Congregations
Submitting Nominations - 97

Respectfully submitted,
David H. Reed, Michigan District Secretary

Mission and Ministry in the Michigan District, LCMS: MOVING from HABIT to INTENTION!

Before, and especially during the past triennium, much study and prayer went into the contemplation of how we, the Michigan District, can encourage and help direct the evangelism and mission efforts at the local congregation and community levels. What follows is a brief summary of our considerations, deliberations, and finally our determinations as we examined our present context and God's desire for us to boldly proclaim and live out the Gospel message of Christ crucified and risen as His salt and light in our communities.

Present Context

We live in a time of **great** and **continuing** change: cultural change, technological change, political change, economic change, and a change in how Christianity is viewed—more and more in a negative light or even with hostility. Changes in culture, context and community have been a part of what our congregations have had to deal with for many years. However, this particular time of change is characterized by both the rapid nature of the change and the certainty of continued change for generations to come.

Because of change, congregations of the Michigan District in the past and present have, can, and certainly are tempted to, withdraw from this change, or maintain the status quo as a reasonable defense, or live in **fear** of the unknown future. These possible reactions result in a *distancing* from the very context, culture, and communities in which God has placed us as salt and light. Because this time of rapid change will continue, we must wrestle with how our congregations—equipped with the timeless message of the eternal Good News of Jesus crucified, risen, ascended and soon to return—can still reach the lost, disciple the saved, facilitate transformed lives, and **remain relevant** (from the biblical view) to, and in, their communities, NOW and in the future.

Some Initial Observations

God is not surprised by the change at all. Our God knew it was coming. He has witnessed it all. He allowed it to come ... and, apparently, will still allow it.

Our dilemma, one that has confronted every generation in time, is taking the changeless, eternal truths of God revealed in His Word and learning to communicate and apply them to our ever-changing context and world in God-pleasing, meaningful, and relevant ways. What are the constants we, as church leaders, can hold on to—our anchors, our foundations—while still relating to, and being relevant in, the rushed lives of the people living in our changing communities? Here are a few hopeful considerations:

Two Foundational Truths

1. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” Malachi 3:6

2. GOD'S INSPIRED WORD and PROMISES DO NOT CHANGE.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

With these two foundational truths in mind, we asked the following question:

How do we in the District Office help our congregations deal with change—past, present, and future—and yet remain faithful to our gracious God and to His inspired Word? ONE consideration became very apparent: **we should NOT be—must NOT be—afraid.** Rather, we should ...

- **Embrace God's promised presence**—*“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,”* Matthew 28:20; and
- **Pray for wisdom ... continually.** Why? Every congregation, with its particular assets and capabilities, and the communities in which they are planted, are different and continue to change ... while the message and power of the Gospel remain constant. *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him”* (James 1:5). God has promised to give wisdom. God's applied wisdom in every context will enable us to live out, and proclaim, the Good News of Jesus Christ crucified, risen, ascended, and soon to return, that we might continue to experience God's blessings, God's accomplishments, and live out God's purposes.

We should continually remind each other of God's promise in Isaiah 55:10-11: *“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater; so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

God's Clarion Call

As Christ-followers and Christian congregations gathered around, shaped and empowered by the Word and Sacraments, and fully devoted to Christ... we are called by God to be salt and light in the context and culture in which we live. In other words, we are called to engage,

to interact with, to SERVE (demonstrate mercy to) our communities so that we can favorably impact them. This is clearly what God has asked us to do. Please contemplate the following Scriptures:

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

“To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.” Proverbs 21:3

“If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” James 1: 26-27

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**” Matthew 5:14-16*

The Missio Dei (Mission of God) is expressly stated or clearly discerned from the following Scripture:

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4

How Do We Accomplish This?

How do we do more than begrudgingly... **acknowledge** change, **contemplate** existing change, and **tolerate** change?

How, rather, do we come to **embrace** change and **determine** how to make the beneficial **changes** needed in each generation as we remain faithful to the Word of God, our Lutheran Confessions and teachings, and be salt and light in the contemporary context of our communities? How do we, by God’s grace, continue to have kingdom impact?

How, also, do we facilitate the change that may be necessary within the existing cultures of our congregations that would enable them to carry out the clear mission that God has given *each of them* to “*make disciples of all nations*?” How do we navigate and sail through the uncharted waters of the economic, cultural, technological, and contextual changes that each of our congregations are currently facing, as well as those in the unknown future? Here’s a truth we’ve come to embrace in the strength and joy of the Holy Spirit: **What we have before us are some breath-taking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems.**

Change

Before we look at those opportunities and some possibilities of how to bring about **helpful** and **hopeful** change, it is first appropriate—and maybe even necessary—to consider **what changes** are needed and **why**.

What Needs to be Changed ... and Why?

Although this particular topic is difficult to raise and talk about, I believe there needs to be a recognition of an unhealthy ‘slide’ away from God’s design and will to reach out into our communities, or, as the Apostle Paul would say,

“To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.”

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

I would also say that this is *not* peculiar to The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. However, we do need to examine what has happened in *our past* with a prayerful, hope-filled result of returning to, or displaying more boldly our biblical foundation, roots, and purpose.

A Brief Reflection on an Unhealthy “Slide”

Here are a few snapshots, or vignettes, or thoughts about this “slide”:

1. Seeking the lost as the ultimate purpose of our work became a **possibility**, not a **necessity**, when we, the LCMS, were “comfortable”—growing and meeting our financial goals—and when doctrinal battles were faced and won. Here’s what the first President of our Synod, CFW Walther, shared:

“... what would happen if we really would make the saving of souls the ultimate purpose, the end and aim of our joint work? ... we would not make it our aim to become an ever larger organization that, as people say, commands attention, and to erect an imposing, complex, though hollow, structure. Still less would we apply ungodly means to realize such an aim ...

... what an influence it will be on our dear congregations

and their pastors and on their relationship toward one another if all acknowledge the saving of souls as the end and aim of our joint work! They will all pull, as peacefully as they do zealously, on the same yoke. Even though all kinds of strife-causing questions might arise—yet the question: “Which course is best for the salvation of souls?” will quickly give the right solution. . . . then our dear congregations will say to one another; as Abraham said to Lot: ‘Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren...’ (Gen. 13:8ff.). Whatever will win the most souls for Christ, that would decide between us.”

2. This is difficult to state, but the question was raised that, if possible, has there been an over-emphasis on **justification by grace through faith** to the point of the seeming exclusion or belittling of **sanctification** (holy living in Christ’s strength for God’s glory)? We stopped asking the question “*Qui bono?*” (For what good?) Paul answered that question at the end of the greatest single sentence in Scripture:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

Doing “good works” (demonstrating mercy, serving others, sharing the Gospel) and not just having and discussing good theology is crucially important for our faith life (James 2:26), as well as for the witness it allows others to see and experience, that they might give glory to the Father (Matthew 5:16).

It is important to remember that the Reformation happened in a particular context—in the 1500’s as a necessary ‘backlash’ to hypocritical Romanism and as an apologetic for the inspiration of the Bible—which is NOT necessarily the same context of today. Context is king.

3. It appears that, over the years, there has been little or a diminishing emphasis on **DISCIPLESHIP**. Interestingly, Jesus did not call us to evangelize (that is NOT the emphasis of the Great Commission in Matthew 28). He called us to go and make **disciples** . . . and **DISCIPLESHIP** is a process.

A part of maturing as a disciple of Jesus Christ is recognizing the work and gifting of the Holy Spirit in each member so that their maturing and involvement benefits the church and community. Discipleship also helps develop leaders (those with the gift of leadership) that are crucially important for the tasks at hand but especially for the future.

4. For whatever reason, we don’t readily acknowledge the Holy Spirit, His work, or the gifts He gives to

people. Consequently, we don’t talk or teach much about the Holy Spirit and His fruit and gifts, and how they are to be recognized and utilized within our congregations—the body of Christ—**and** for the spread of God’s kingdom. This should be a major part of “discipleship.”

This is also a very Lutheran emphasis because it recognizes, emphasizes, and gives appropriate honor to the blessing of the **priesthood of all believers**, which was a major emphasis of the first Reformation.

“But you are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2: 9-10

The **priesthood of all believers** needs to be a major emphasis in our congregations **now** if we are going to be obedient to God’s will, relevant to our communities, and fruitful in our ministries.

Martin Luther, in his Sermon for the First Sunday after Easter, based on John 20:19-29 and preached in Wittenberg on April 12, 1523, had this to say:

“This Gospel before us speaks of faith and its fruit. Now the offices and power of faith follow, [faith] that reaches out in love. It is not enough if I have acquired Christ, that He is mine, that He has conquered sin; it is necessary that I follow His example. ‘As the Father sent Me,’ He says [John 20:21]. This is the highest work that a Christian is able to do: that through preaching I should bring [my neighbor] to the same [faith] to which I [have been brought]. He appoints each one to this office. He Himself came to preach and teach the truth. This is said and written for us, as if to say: ‘You have all you need of consolation in Me, and I, Christ, am the true joy. The Father sent Me into the world out of love, so that I might serve it, so that the world might enter into joy and consolation, and I have given up My body and life. Do likewise. For whatever remains of your life, live as those sent by Christ.’

It is the office of everyone to instruct his neighbor, etc. And this power is given not to the clergy alone (though [here it is] spoken to the apostles) but to all believers. When you have performed this highest work, seek to become Christ’s apostle, **to serve all people** (emphasis mine), so that they may come unto God as you have. Do not do this that you may merit anything thereby; rather, you already possess [everything] through Christ.” (Luther’s Works, Vol. 69, Sermon for the First Sunday After Easter, John 20:19-29, trans. by Heath R. Curtis, pp. 336-337)

5. One of the **blessings** and one of the **impediments**—if wrongly understood and practiced—in the LCMS is

our particular form of polity in which we recognize each congregation's **autonomy**. "Autonomy" refers to each congregations right or condition of self-governance and "independence" from external control or influence. "Congregational autonomy" has been beneficial largely legally in terms of lawsuits being terminated at their point of origin, i.e., if a congregation is sued, there is no District or Synod liability. However, our understanding of "autonomy" has also allowed—if not encouraged—a 'self-sufficient' attitude and a working independently in the Kingdom of God among neighboring congregations, resulting in an unnoticed (or possibly deliberate?) floundering or failing of 'local' ministries or congregations. Satan has worked to divide us in many ways.

What's Needed?

Repentance—Real "CHANGE"—is Necessary. Jesus Christ, through the Apostle John, gives wonderful counsel and encouragement to us through His words to the church at Ephesus in *Revelation 2*. Note that the words are positive and commendatory, but also recognize that they've been blinded and need to change.

*"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you **repent**.' "* Revelation 2:1-5

Turning to the Lord in Holy Spirit-wrought repentance to receive our Savior's life-giving, life-sustaining forgiveness and strength should be the first task of every day, and the first consideration for every endeavor. Having received His forgiveness, studying and meditating on His Word, and continuing to pray to Him for wisdom (as mentioned in the very beginning) as a grateful response for all He has done and is doing on our behalf, leads us to regularly ask the following questions:

How, then, can we effectively **help and serve individuals and families** in our communities?

How can we live out and visibly demonstrate the love, mercy, and grace of God—**just because we are His people**, fully devoted disciples of Christ—with the prayerful, hopeful desire of inevitably sharing Jesus and the Good News of the Gospel?

Furthermore, how can we do this in the diverse city, urban, suburban, and rural settings in which our congregations are planted, stationed, or "setting sail"?

How do we speak into our communities, into the culture(s) and individual context(s) that are unique to each congregation?

With those questions in mind, and praying for and desiring a simple way that could be understood, embraced, and acted upon, Dr. Rob Kasper discovered and shared a diagram from *To Transform A City* by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams, that we have since adapted for our purposes in the Michigan District. It is shared with you below under *our* heading—*Changing From Habit to INTENTION*—which emphasizes what we have come to understand is crucial to future ministry efforts: that ministry in every context be done **DELIBERATELY**. Truly, we must change from doing ministry by habit ... to INTENTION.

(turn the page)

Changing From Habit to INTENTION

Mission Direction and Encouragement

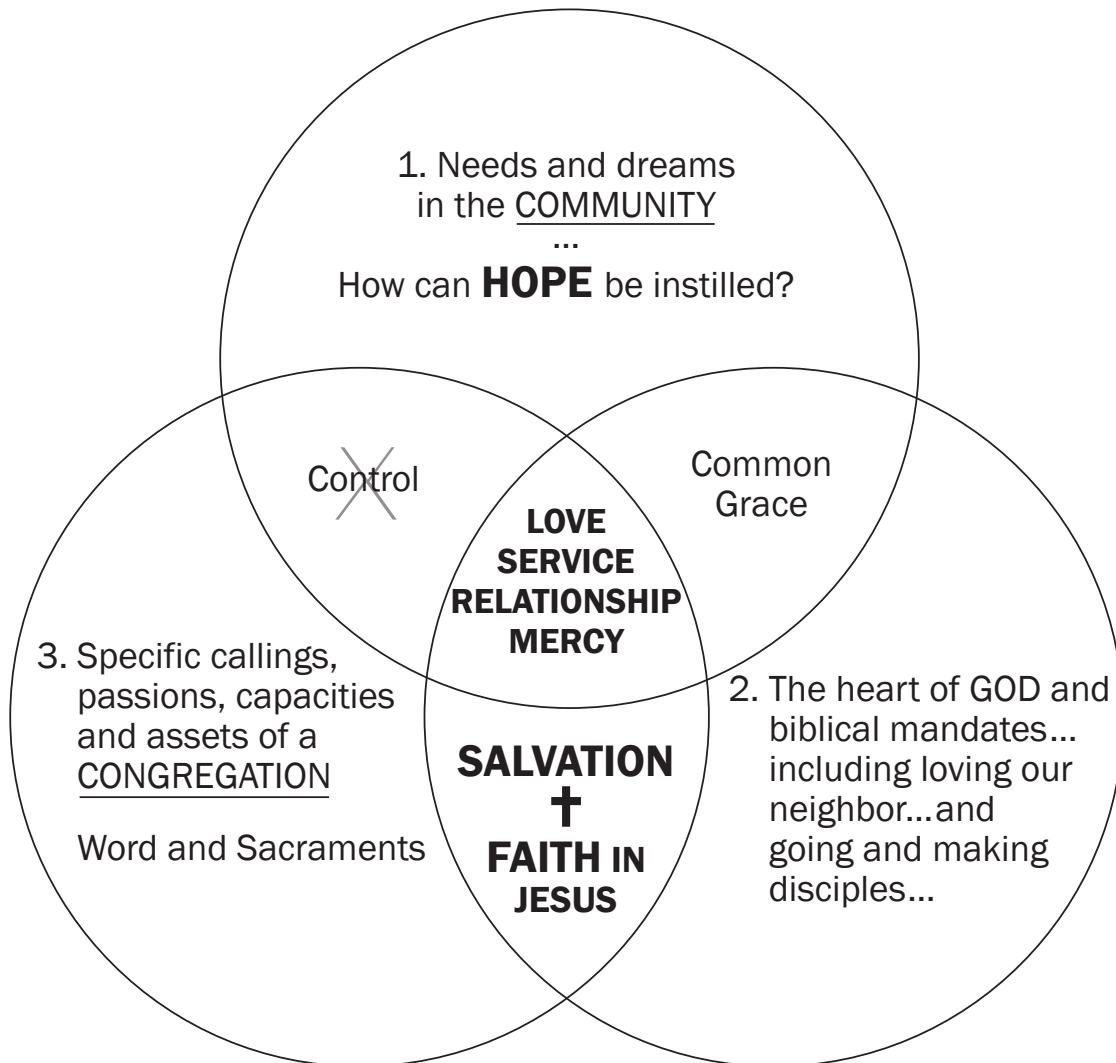


Diagram adapted from *To Transform A City* by Eric Swanson & Sam Williams

I truly look forward to sharing more with you concerning this diagram and our future ministry effort in the second half of my President's Report that will be given at the 101st Michigan District Convention.

With sincere gratitude to you and especially to our gracious Lord for the privilege and opportunity of serving,

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

The Future is Now, in partnership with Fan into Flame thank offering, was completed in 2012. Through the generous giving of Michigan District congregations, the following gifts of support were given to international missionaries since 2009:

David and Joyce Erber – Nigeria (\$50,000)
Charles and Cheryl Ferry – Indonesia (\$50,000)
George and Shari Frahm – Cambodia (\$50,000)
Timothy and Beth Heiney – West Africa (\$86,250)
Matthew Heise – Russia (\$50,000)
Roger and Amy James – Sri Lanka (\$50,000)
Doris Kayser – Guinea, West Africa (\$22,308)
Daniel Masih – India (\$27,274)
James and Christel Neuendorf – Dominican Republic (\$90,106)
Todd and Kim Roeske – Philippines (\$17,500)
Greg Sawyer – Hong Kong (\$50,000)
Carl and Deborah Rockrohr – South Africa (\$100,000)
Stephen and Krista Weisenauer – Asia (\$50,000)
Hmong Hymnal Project (\$38,000)
Caring for Kids – Vietnam (\$35,000)
India – Other Mission Work – (\$6,460)

Listed below is the status of **ordained missionaries from the Michigan District**:

David Erber – Serving in Nigeria
Charles Ferry – Serving in Indonesia
Timothy Heiney – Returned from West Africa in 2014, awaiting further service
Matthew Heise – Returned from Russia to accept a call to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Roger James – Serving in Sri Lanka
Steven Mahlburg – presently preparing and fundraising for service in Asia
Lawrence Matro – presently preparing and fundraising for service in Oceania
Carl Rockrohr – Served in South Africa but returned to the states
Richard Rudowske – Serving in Botswana
Dale Talsma – Returned from Guatemala in 2011, awaiting further service
James Tino – Deployed to Chile
Stephen Wiesenauer – Serving in Asia

We thank and praise God for these men and women who share Jesus with people around the world.

In addition to the missionary support, the Michigan District **helped and organized support for three mission trips to South Africa** under the knowledge and encouragement of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod International Center.

The **first group left for South Africa** on April 22, 2013. They returned to the USA on May 2, 2013.

At that time, the participants were Rev. Micah Greiner (Lead Pastor, St. Peter, Arlington Heights, Ill.), Rev. Bill Wangelin (Associate Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison, Mich.), and Seth Hinz (Web/Media Director, Michigan District staff).

Rev. Mandla Khumalo, pastor in South Africa, takes very seriously our Lord's Great Commission and carries it out in part by planting new congregations. When he returned from Concordia Theological Seminary Ft.

Wayne to Middelburg, South Africa in 1989, there were a handful of fellow pastors that Khumalo knew and had taught who then joined him in forming the Confessional Lutheran Church in South Africa on August 5. These other pastors and congregations became part of this association, and all of them began planting new churches. By 2007, there were 20 congregations, preaching stations, or house churches, and 16 other areas where they used garages or schools for Bible studies and/or worship services.

Recommendations from the first trip regarding Michigan District involvement:

1. Support capital expansion of St. Peter Christian College (grad school) – Although St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, IL is a major contributor to the school and church mission, they are not able to

keep up with the growth of the school, and could use other partners in helping build the next phase of buildings. This would bring the school through grade 9 and to 450 students.

2. Direct missionary teachers to Middelburg –

possibly in conjunction with Concordia, Ann Arbor, as an internship or as a two-year mission track for graduates. This system, set up in the past by LCMS World Mission, seems to work well, and should be utilized.

3. Connect Lutheran Schools in Michigan with

St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Schools in Middelburg, South Africa. This could happen through technology, linking classrooms with fellow students on the other side of the world. Middelburg would be the first place to start this, perhaps with Lutheran schools in Michigan named “St. Peter” (Big Rapids, Hemlock, Macomb, etc.) and expand it to other schools. They could also adopt classrooms, teachers, and/or students ... a project being worked on right now.

4. Lutheran Preschool Initiative – seek to start or enhance 20 Lutheran preschools in South Africa in the next 10 years (a very tall order). This would involve helping Bethel Preschool expand their facilities, start a preschool in Siyabuswa, support preschools of the Lutheran Church South Africa (LCSA), Bishop Tswaedi’s congregation especially, and eventually German Lutheran Church in South Africa (FELSISA) and Dieter Schnackenburg’s vision for preschools in the Transvaal. There could also be trainers from the US who could come and train preschool workers and help develop policies and programs. The South Africans can’t build these preschools fast enough! (Currently, the LCMS is in fellowship with LCSA and FELSISA.)

5. Support the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria. The Rocky Mountain and Southern Illinois Districts supported this seminary in the past, but their commitments have expired. The seminary needs to continue working on certification and accreditation.

6. Bring Missionaries from Middelburg to Michigan.

There are several Christians who are passionate about sharing the Gospel that would be of great encouragement to Lutherans in Michigan who want to see the church revitalized. These include Aubrey Makobi, Geoffrey Thokane, Elizabeth Madonsela, and Mduduzu of Siyabuswa. The teachers at St. Peter Christian College were also outspoken Christians who would be encouraging to Lutheran teachers in Michigan. Mandla may have other recommendations.

7. Theological Exchange through Conferences. When the Michigan District holds theological conferences to strengthen the doctrinal unity of our fellowship, it could be possible through technology to include

our partners in South Africa, and also to allow them to prepare papers for a cultural exchange of ideas. Khumalo’s address to the Michigan District Convention was well received, and a powerful testimony to the exchange of theology, missionary zeal, and evangelism enthusiasm that can be exchanged both ways.

8. AIDS Orphans Scholarship. With the AIDS epidemic continuing, there will be countless children orphaned by this disease. Lutheran schools provide an opportunity for orphans to hear of the love of their heavenly Father and to be prepared for a life of service to the community. This scholarship could apply to St. Peter Lutheran College in Middelburg, South Africa.

The **second trip** took place January 2-9, 2014. President David Maier, Rev. Micah Greiner, and Mr. Gary Grom were the individuals on this trip. This was a quick trip to discover and help work through concerns that were arising between the many ministries at St. Peter, Middelburg, as well as bring greater definition for donors in the United States through better banking and audit practices.

February 26 – March 11, 2015 were the dates of the **third trip**. The team was comprised of Rev. Micah Greiner – Lead Pastor, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Mr. Gary Grom – Chairman of the Foundation, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Mr. Brad Rukstales – Chairman, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Rev. Dr. David Birner – Executive Director of International Education for Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor; Rev. Craig Bickel – Lead Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids and Vice-Chairman of the Michigan District Board of Directors; Rev. Randy Duncan – Pastor, Living Word Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Mich. and adjunct professor of Religion at Concordia University Ann Arbor; Mr. Jeff Martin – Vice President of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Ada, Mich.; Mr. Chad Woltemath – Assistant to the President – Business and Finance, Michigan District, LCMS; Mr. Andrew Berson – Former Concordia Seminary, St. Louis student; Mrs. Patricia Maier – Former teacher and personal friend to Mrs. Lindewe Khumalo and wife of President David Maier; and Rev. Dr. David Maier – President, The Michigan District, LCMS.

While in Africa, a number of planned goals were accomplished and other experiences and meetings – some unplanned, but equally important – were also accomplished. Some of these goals, meetings, and experiences were ...

- Craig Bickel being picked up at 5 a.m. on Saturday, the first full day we were there, to preach at a funeral

that was attended by more than 500 people. Craig didn't know about this until asked on Friday night (when we first arrived) by Pastor Khumalo;

- The Saturday evening Welcome Braai (BBQ) at Pastor and Mrs. Khumalo's home ... vegetarians were out of luck as the main course was grilled lamb, beef steak, smoked pork chops, chicken, and sausage ...; the Khumalo's daughter, Busisiwe, did prepare a number of side dishes/salads including chakalaka;
- Worship at St. Peter Lutheran Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelburg. Although all the clergy on our team participated in the service in some way – leading the liturgy, doing Bible readings, praying, Pastor Maier did the sermon with Pastor Khumalo translating. The service was 3 ½ hours long but kept your attention throughout. The music and singing will always be remembered.
- Traveling to see Pastor Geoffrey's church in Siyabuswa Sunday afternoon and considering the possibility of a Child Care Center there;
- Visiting Bethel Day Care Center on the campus of St. Peter Lutheran Church;
- Listening to a presentation in word and song by Caring Friends (volunteer young people and adults who share facts about HIV prevention, etc.) on the campus of St. Peter Lutheran Church;
- Visiting the campus of St. Peter Christian College (Elementary School) that has grown from 62 in 2010 to 424 in January, 2015;
- Having a most informative meeting with the Mayor of Middelburg;
- Engaging in the "Paradigm Shift/Mentoring" presentation by Jedd Schroy, along with his "Micro Loan" concept that reflected South African law and regulations. I think we all began to see how crucial these advancements are in order to help native South Africans have the opportunity at a livelihood and life, and in the end, indigenous support of the ministries of St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church throughout South Africa. Truly, you can give someone a fish for a day, or you can teach them to fish for a lifetime.
- Visiting a farm that could become the location for agricultural education and training for St. Peter Middelburg Job and Skills Development Center;
- Visiting St. Peter's Job and Skills Development Center on St. Peter's Grade School campus. It currently consists of a garage, welding site, bakery, and laundry (being built while we were there);
- Meetings with the Board of St. Peter Lutheran Church of Middelburg, Pastor Khumalo, and Bishop David Tswaedi (LCSA).

This trip continued with, and advanced, the primary recommendations from the Mission Trip in 2013.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

The Board of Directors (BOD) met faithfully five (5) times each calendar year in the past triennium. At each meeting, the board :

- 1) Heard a report on the state of the District and Synod from the President;
- 2) Took care of the routine matters of the District through its Consent Agenda;
- 3) Worked on establishing, reviewing, and interpreting the plans of our District in its Governance Agenda;
- 4) Monitored the work of the District staff including reviewing all of the Policy Manual components;
- 5) Annually reviewed all parts of the Policies on Self-Governance;
- 6) Accepted reports from the District Treasurer, Vice President of Development, District Secretary, Circuit Visitor Chairman, Church Extension Fund board member, and other active committees of the board;
- 7) Heard major presentations on issues affecting our District;
- 8) Received monthly financial and yearly audit reports; and
- 9) Worked on any other business brought before the board.

The board spent the beginning of the triennium reviewing and updating the Board of Directors' Policy Manual with special attention to the strategic direction of the District. Four critical targets were developed for District ministry:

- Great Commission Ministry
- Great Compassion Ministry
- Healthy Congregations
- Healthy Church Workers

Mr. Les Stroh, from Cornerstone Ministries, served as consultant for this process. The board spent time in late 2014 with Dr. Ross Stueber, past Vice President of Academics at Concordia University Ann Arbor, and assistant to the president for Governance and Planning for Concordia University Wisconsin, who lead board members through a governance model review. Throughout the remainder of the triennium, the board served as steward of the District by working with President Maier to ensure that all work done through the District Office, the annual budget and other District activities were congruent with the Policy Manual.

The board regularly entertained outside speakers and other materials in order to position itself to represent the interests of the Michigan District. Speakers included LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison and LCMS Second Vice President, representing the Great Lakes Region, Rev. Dr. Rev. John Wohlrabe.

The board replaced one board member: Mr. James "Chuck" Anderson, North-East Commissioned Representative, resigned to take a District staff position with youth ministry and was replaced by Mr. Eric Hagenow. Due to changes in the BOD Policy Manual, Chairman Rev. David Davis resigned from his duties as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mr. Stephen Boergert, Vice-Chairman of the BOD, was nominated

and unanimously elected Chairman of the BOD. Rev. Craig Bickel was nominated and unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the BOD.

The board directed much time and energy to the formal merger of Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia University Wisconsin, as well as increased ministry in Detroit. The board in a number of ways affirmed the strategic importance of a Concordia University being situated in Ann Arbor and of continued and innovative work in the city of Detroit. The fruit of this work is seen through the completed merger between Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia University Wisconsin and the improvements to CUAA campus. It is also evidenced in efforts toward the A2E (Acts 2 Enterprise) emphasis in urban ministry.

The board bought or sold property, and/or took out loans for the following facilities:

- Authorized Guarantee of Holy Cross, Detroit loan;
- Authorized the establishment of an endowment with Lutheran Legacy Foundation.

The board of directors continued to support the work of the Synod with high levels of partnership:

- The board nominated people from the District to synodical positions when the opportunity arose.
- Of the unrestricted annual congregation offerings to the District, we sent 40.5% to the Synod in the fiscal year ending 1/31/2013, and 39.5% in the fiscal years ending 1/31/2014 and 1/31/2015.
- Supported the inter-Lutheran efforts in South Africa and further relationship with St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church, et al., South Africa.

Other actions of the board include:

- Reappointing Mr. John Bates, Mr. John Bush, and Mr. Adam Heinlein to the Michigan District Endowment Advisory Council;
- Approving the annual audit reports of Yeo and Yeo, P.C.;
- Forming a task force to investigate and make recommendations on how the board could better communicate with the stewards of the District;
- Mr. A. William Rolf retired from the Committee on New and Revised Constitutions, and was replaced by Mr. Richard Carolan from Historic Trinity, Detroit;
- Reappointed to a six (6) year term as District Reconcilers were: Rev. Harry Edenfield, Rev. Terry Hoese, Mr. Duane Nagel, and Mr. Duane Renken;
- Obtaining the services of Rev. Dr. Bryan R. Salminen to serve as assistant to the President – Church Worker Care and Support;
- Appointing a committee to review the District Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation prior to the District Convention.

BUSINESS/FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Lord continues to bless the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with financial resources to carry out mission and ministry. Although the funding patterns of the Synod continue to change, the District maintains a strong financial position due to congregations continuing to support their collective work through the District, partnerships with Church Extension Fund and other entities, and the continuing development of individual donors.

The District's total assets decreased during the past triennium from \$18,917,013 on 1/31/2012 to \$18,352,509 on 1/31/2015. Its net assets (equity) decreased from \$13,023,361 to \$12,242,958, with nearly all of the decrease in the unrestricted net assets of the District. This decrease includes a one-time special gift of \$1.2 million discussed below.

Actual cash receipts from congregations were approximately \$4.85 million each of the past 3 years. (Note the Statement of Activities shows bigger swings due to the timing of receipt of congregation commitment forms.) Although this traditional system of funding District and Synod ministry has decreased nearly 25% from the high of \$6.4 million in 2001, the steep declines experienced over the prior two trienniums were not repeated this past triennium. As is done each triennium, a detailed report of this giving is attached to this report.

During the year ending 1/31/13, the District sent 40.5% of the District/Synod congregation offerings on to Synod for national and international ministry. The District sent 39.5% for the years ending 1/31/14 and 1/31/15. The District spent \$1.4 to \$1.5 million each year in mission work (new mission starts, urban and cross-cultural, campus ministry, etc.), including a continuing increase in the Acts 2 Enterprise emphasis in Detroit and other urban areas. Church work scholarships continue to be maintained at a level much higher than just 12 years ago, increasing, for instance, from an average of \$300 per year for seminary students in 2002 to \$2,500 for the academic year starting in 2014. In addition to the student aid program, the District participated in the combining of Concordia University Ann Arbor with Concordia University Wisconsin by making a gift of \$1.2 million towards debt reduction. To maintain cash flow, the District borrowed the funds from Church Extension Fund and will have the loan paid off no later than 2021.

After several years of building up funds and receivables for ***The Future is Now*** campaign, the District has been and continues to put the funds raised into mission

starts and student aid. The campaign made a significant impact on the student aid program as discussed above. Approximately \$1,500,000 in remaining raised funds are budgeted to be spent over the next several years.

Following is the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities as included in the Annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report for the year ended January 31, 2015. The statement of cash flows and the notes are an integral part of the financial statements, but are not presented here. A complete copy of the financial statements is available from the District Office by calling 888.225.2111.

Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Financial Position
January 31, 2015
(With Comparative Totals for 2014 and 2013)

	January 31, 2015			January 31, 2014	January 31, 2013
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 423,029	\$ 145,115	\$ -	\$ 568,144	\$ 879,666
Investments	2,974,082	3,513,077	1,197,765	7,684,924	6,604,237
Accounts receivable - net	201,558	-	-	201,558	56,667
Contributions and grants receivable	-	3,088,186	-	3,088,186	3,461,898
Prepaid expenses	101,219	-	-	101,219	85,039
Notes and loans receivable	1,876,257	294,411	-	2,170,668	2,732,391
Deferred gifts	-	7,402	1,989	9,391	9,198
Funds held in custody by others	61,342	-	227,333	288,675	222,810
Property and equipment - net	4,179,744	-	-	4,179,744	4,304,583
Property held for sale - net	60,000	-	-	60,000	270,085
Total assets	\$ 9,877,231	\$ 7,048,191	\$ 1,427,087	\$ 18,352,509	\$ 18,626,574
Liabilities and Net Assets					
Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$ 140,749	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,749	\$ 138,041
Due to affiliated organizations	340,364	-	-	340,364	332,162
Deferred revenue	58,832	-	-	58,832	80,563
Synodical pledge	1,718,250	-	-	1,718,250	1,797,250
Grants payable	63,416	-	-	63,416	1,251,250
Notes payable	3,316,019	-	-	3,316,019	3,028,417
Funds held for other entities	-	471,921	-	471,921	252,911
Total liabilities	5,637,630	471,921	-	6,109,551	6,880,594
Net assets (liabilities)					
Unrestricted	4,239,601	-	-	4,239,601	3,755,925
Temporarily restricted	-	6,576,270	-	6,576,270	6,571,304
Permanently restricted	-	-	1,427,087	1,427,087	1,418,751
Total net assets (liabilities)	4,239,601	6,576,270	1,427,087	12,242,958	11,745,980
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 9,877,231	\$ 7,048,191	\$ 1,427,087	\$ 18,352,509	\$ 18,626,574

Michigan District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended January 31, 2015
(With Comparative Totals for 2014 and 2013)

	January 31, 2015				January 31, 2014	January 31, 2013
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total		
Support, Revenues and Gains						
Support						
District congregation - District and Synod	\$ 577,547	\$ 3,742,347	\$ -	\$ 4,319,894	\$ 4,921,153	\$ 4,703,723
District congregation - District only	158,783	79,180	-	237,963	208,043	227,968
Other gifts and grants	86,161	749,262	-	835,423	1,108,417	523,187
Revenues and gains						
Publications	48,840	-	-	48,840	59,036	89,161
Program fees	850,749	-	-	850,749	495,522	481,345
Convention registration and assessment	109,491	-	-	109,491	144,565	226,430
Investment income	76,370	176,262	3,497	256,129	333,494	385,947
Gain(loss) on sale of assets	(130)	-	-	(130)	7,423	(33,741)
Other	56,178	-	-	56,178	65,070	67,855
Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center income	94,242	-	-	94,242	96,528	111,864
Net assets released from restrictions	5,215,872	(5,215,872)	-	-	-	-
Total support, revenues and gains	7,274,103	(468,821)	3,497	6,808,779	7,439,251	6,783,739
Expenses						
Synodical budget	1,706,714	-	-	1,706,714	1,843,314	1,858,224
Program services						
Missions	1,431,369	-	-	1,431,369	1,513,089	1,503,264
Congregation ministry facilitators	481,820	-	-	481,820	427,900	423,340
Christian care	130,811	-	-	130,811	126,685	137,377
Lutheran schools	318,086	-	-	318,086	296,269	315,576
Youth ministry	390,580	-	-	390,580	73,110	36,893
Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center expenses	42,243	-	-	42,243	123,630	106,258
Other congregation program services	135,563	-	-	135,563	208,228	188,934
Communications	273,475	-	-	273,475	259,577	301,028
Student aid	240,991	-	-	240,991	215,394	1,420,820
Development	217,405	-	-	217,405	199,638	208,859
Worker care	408,160	-	-	408,160	334,111	412,323
Ecclesiastical and program administration						
Administration	821,212	-	-	821,212	762,258	749,989
Convention	(40,699)	-	-	(40,699)	315,686	175,444
District properties and depreciation	252,397	-	-	252,397	242,036	222,791
Total expenses	6,810,127	-	-	6,810,127	6,940,925	8,061,120
Change in net assets	463,976	(468,821)	3,497	(1,348)	498,326	(1,277,381)
Net assets - beginning of year	3,775,625	7,045,091	1,423,590	12,244,306	11,745,980	13,023,361
Net assets - end of year	\$ 4,239,601	\$ 6,576,270	\$ 1,427,087	\$ 12,242,958	\$ 12,244,306	\$ 11,745,980

Michigan District, LCMS
Unrestricted Cash Received From Congregations

ID	City, Congregation	2013 Confirmed Membership*	Unrestricted Cash Contributions*			Average Per Year Per Confirmed*
			FYE 1/31/2013	FYE 1/31/2014	FYE 1/31/2015	
Circuit 1 - Mackinaw Straits						
500101	Cheboygan, St. John	239	2,011.68	3,282.32	3,024.00	11.60
500102	De Tour Village, Redeemer	10	500.00	-	250.00	25.00
500103	Drummond Island, Drummond Island	93	4,000.00	4,500.00	5,625.00	50.63
500104	Engadine, Bethlehem	128	6,742.64	5,517.66	6,724.79	49.44
500105	Curtis, Grace	89	5,408.25	4,513.10	5,794.20	58.86
500106	Hawks, Faith	112	5,450.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	51.93
500107	Kincheloe, St. Paul	14	975.00	850.00	500.00	55.36
500108	Rogers City, Immanuel	183	7,594.00	7,261.00	7,131.00	40.05
500109	Newberry, Trinity	51	750.00	750.00	750.00	14.71
500110	Onaway, Holy Cross	129	1,541.67	2,000.00	2,000.00	14.32
500111	Rogers City, Peace	344	5,480.10	6,736.00	5,848.00	17.50
500112	Rogers City, St. John	514	15,340.00	7,167.00	7,553.11	19.49
500113	Rogers City, St. Michael	255	5,157.25	4,378.25	5,806.02	20.05
500114	Sault Sainte Marie, St. Barnabas	54	3,600.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	71.60
500116	Trout Lake, Trout Lake	15	894.20	774.13	709.10	52.83
Circuit 2 - Alpena						
500201	Alpena, Immanuel	1176	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	25.51
500202	Harrisville, Faith	21	-	-	-	0.00
500203	Hubbard Lake, St. Paul	241	11,234.38	11,263.03	16,473.05	53.90
500204	Hillman, St. John	417	10,000.00	9,999.97	9,166.67	23.31
500205	Lewiston, Bethlehem	209	15,228.06	14,923.30	14,213.37	70.76
500206	Ossineke, Good Shepherd	71	300.00	-	300.00	2.82
500207	Alpena, St. Paul	26	1,800.00	1,215.00	1,200.00	54.04
500209	Mio, Living Water	50	1,320.00	2,243.50	1,755.00	35.46
Circuit 3 - Timberline						
500301	Au Gres, St. John	255	3,088.34	8,750.76	9,600.75	28.03
500302	Glennie, Our Savior	32	-	-	-	0.00
500303	Hale, St. Paul	359	7,200.00	7,200.00	6,000.00	18.94
500304	Oscoda, Trinity	334	8,062.59	7,087.64	6,769.94	21.88
500305	Prescott, Faith	347	15,000.00	15,125.00	15,500.00	43.83
500307	Tawas City, Zion	318	5,700.00	5,600.00	5,600.00	17.71
500308	Whittemore, Good News Ministries	89	2,926.57	2,729.12	3,006.61	32.44
Circuit 4 - Gladwin						
500401	Clare, Prince Of Peace	66	-	-	-	0.00
500402	Gladwin, Our Savior	621	10,000.21	10,004.00	12,427.30	17.41
500403	Harrison, St. Luke	188	10,085.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	53.34
500404	Houghton Lake, St. John	431	8,400.00	8,400.00	9,100.00	20.03
500405	Saint Helen, Hope	123	600.00	900.00	1,000.00	6.78
500406	West Branch, St. John	148	4,500.00	5,000.01	6,000.00	34.91
500407	Standish, Bethlehem	223	4,805.06	4,299.00	4,157.00	19.82
Circuit 5 - Midland						
500501	Alma, Peace	112	-	-	-	0.00
500502	Auburn, Grace	414	30,500.00	34,000.00	41,000.00	84.94
500503	Auburn, Zion	865	71,825.99	60,846.02	60,174.71	74.31
500504	Midland, Messiah	950	15,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	8.77
500505	Midland, Our Savior	80	4,625.86	4,767.00	4,892.00	59.52
500506	Midland, St. John's	1059	69,500.00	68,275.00	70,070.00	65.42
500507	Mount Pleasant, Zion	432	8,040.00	7,370.00	9,999.96	19.61
500509	Sanford, St. Paul	233	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	8.58
500510	Wheeler, Immanuel	415	13,150.86	12,025.00	12,000.00	29.86
500511	Midland, Lord Of New Life	94	600.00	800.00	600.00	7.09
500512	Brant, St. John	96	-	1,200.00	-	4.17
Circuit 6 - Bay City						
500601	Bay City, Faith	1205	28,980.00	34,630.00	47,035.00	30.61
500602	Bay City, Immanuel	1265	-	7,224.24	9,054.71	4.29
500603	Bay City, St. John	625	13,551.65	15,768.90	8,960.55	20.42
500604	Bay City, Trinity	590	14,394.00	10,133.96	18,832.00	24.50
500605	Bay City, Zion	944	20,048.73	33,632.03	25,888.94	28.10
500606	Essexville, Pilgrim	290	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,100.00	4.02
500607	Bay City, St. Paul	766	42,718.79	41,284.13	38,725.62	53.41
500608	Pinconning, St. John	411	15,000.00	15,000.00	12,500.00	34.47
Circuit 7 - Thumb East						
500701	Bad Axe, Our Savior	587	9,616.00	9,808.50	10,006.65	16.71
500702	Kinde, St. Peter	121	2,309.08	5,697.09	5,389.80	36.90
500703	Minden City, Trinity	110	4,360.00	2,321.50	2,053.00	26.47
500704	Harbor Beach, Zion	508	13,691.02	14,296.25	14,104.66	27.62
500705	Palms, St. John	173	941.00	225.00	745.00	3.68
500706	Port Hope, St. John	590	18,758.00	4,522.00	6,862.00	17.03
500707	Port Sanilac, St. John	133	3,133.00	2,439.00	2,010.00	19.00
500708	Sandusky, Peace	288	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3.47
500709	Marlette, Our Savior	251	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	23.90

Michigan District, LCMS
Unrestricted Cash Received From Congregations

ID	City, Congregation	2013 Confirmed Membership*	Unrestricted Cash Contributions*			Average Per Year Per Confirmed*
			FYE 1/31/2013	FYE 1/31/2014	FYE 1/31/2015	
Circuit 8 - Thumb West						
500801	Sebewaing, St. Peter	88	6,329.00	5,961.00	6,092.00	69.63
500802	Pigeon, Good Shepherd	128	-	-	4,182.73	10.89
500803	Cass City, Good Shepherd	391	16,307.35	16,000.00	11,136.70	37.04
500805	Sebewaing, St. John	227	4,789.00	5,029.50	4,334.50	20.78
500806	Pigeon, St. Paul	372	4,051.50	3,169.00	4,667.00	10.65
500807	Sebewaing, Immanuel	872	58,319.24	56,901.07	57,351.12	65.97
500808	Unionville, St. Paul	399	20,958.62	14,459.87	17,407.82	44.13
500809	Fairgrove, Grace	273	4,800.00	4,400.00	4,800.00	17.09
Circuit 9 - Frankenmuth						
500901	Caro, St. Paul	630	33,765.99	34,729.10	34,199.75	54.34
500903	Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz	3948	361,507.68	360,000.00	360,000.00	91.31
500904	Millington, St. Paul	1509	18,795.60	17,830.64	17,415.78	11.94
500905	Munger, Trinity-St. James	552	800.00	3,600.00	1,000.00	3.26
500906	Reese, Trinity	833	19,145.50	12,688.05	14,484.00	18.53
500907	Richville, St. Michael's	1203	71,766.36	54,860.13	77,974.16	56.69
500908	Saginaw, Immanuel	557	22,400.51	23,926.60	18,968.43	39.08
Circuit 10 - Saginaw						
501001	Bridgeport, Faith	527	19,952.12	18,561.31	18,718.97	36.20
501002	Hemlock, St. Peter	1093	35,796.70	34,548.00	34,506.50	31.98
501003	Hemlock, Zion	409	23,051.83	21,939.51	18,335.40	51.61
501004	Owosso, St. Philip	104	1,683.33	1,751.67	2,100.00	17.74
501005	Saginaw, Bethlehem	1005	37,701.15	36,442.50	34,465.00	36.02
501006	Saginaw, Good Shepherd	789	17,000.00	18,000.00	26,000.00	25.77
501007	Saginaw, Messiah	158	1,200.00	1,200.00	4,000.00	13.50
501008	Saginaw, Peace	1564	164,500.00	141,000.00	100,750.00	86.58
501009	Saginaw, Holy Cross	416	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	28.85
801010	Saginaw, Redeemer	Closed	534.23	960.81	279.78	
501011	Saint Charles, Nativity	64	4,179.00	4,666.00	5,872.30	76.65
501012	Saginaw, St. Mark	518	21,666.58	19,999.92	20,000.00	39.68
Circuit 11 - Flint North						
501101	Frankenmuth, Christ	263	1,065.00	-	-	1.35
501102	Birch Run, St. Martin	563	-	7,351.50	4,961.60	7.29
501103	Clio, Messiah	1412	63,000.00	63,000.00	63,000.00	44.62
501104	Flint, Christ The King	35	1,059.00	240.00	339.00	15.60
501105	Flint, United in Christ	261	-	-	-	0.00
501106	Flint, Our Savior	208	6,500.00	7,855.00	7,260.00	34.64
501108	Flint, St. Paul	741	14,941.67	22,496.52	7,480.10	20.21
501109	Flushing, Holy Cross	321	13,013.00	8,523.70	4,644.63	27.19
Circuit 12 - Flint South						
501201	Burton, Pilgrim	192	1,400.00	1,100.00	1,200.00	6.42
501202	Fenton, Trinity	791	15,528.00	14,234.00	16,822.00	19.63
501205	Goodrich, Christ	189	-	-	-	0.00
501206	Grand Blanc, Faith	1291	84,125.00	83,075.04	83,075.04	64.62
501208	Linden, Hope	302	8,593.00	5,486.00	2,110.00	17.87
501210	Swartz Creek, Newlife Community	201	-	-	10,000.00	16.58
501211	Flint, Lamb of God	200	-	12,000.00	12,000.00	40.00
Circuit 13 - Lapeer						
501301	Davison, Trinity	612	8,000.00	1,846.66	5,829.24	8.54
501302	Dryden, Holy Redeemer	210	12,764.72	13,331.05	13,340.97	62.60
501303	Flint, Calvary	42	-	-	-	0.00
501304	Flint, St. Mark	626	26,000.00	27,000.00	27,000.00	42.60
501305	Lapeer, St. Paul	1060	17,950.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15.08
501307	North Branch, New Life In Christ	79	110.00	-	-	0.46
501308	Otisville, St. Timothy	265	22,569.00	18,094.00	16,833.00	72.32
Circuit 14 - Port Huron						
501401	Algonac, First	89	1,300.00	1,200.00	1,100.00	13.48
501402	Armada, Our Saviour	268	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3.73
501403	Fair Haven, St. Peter	120	500.00	376.80	-	2.44
501404	Goodells, Hope	12	-	-	-	0.00
501405	Lexington, St. Matthew	560	1,541.66	1,999.92	1,833.26	3.20
501406	Port Huron, Faith	355	12,750.00	21,280.00	18,660.00	49.47
501407	Port Huron, Trinity	903	12,226.34	31,666.66	4,999.67	18.05
501408	Richmond, St. Peter's	1027	4,770.30	3,762.29	2,269.50	3.51
501409	Saint Clair, Immanuel	849	22,796.00	27,391.25	24,000.00	29.13
501410	Memphis, St. Andrew	157	-	-	-	0.00
501411	Marine City, Living Faith	37	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	40.54
501412	Ray, Living Hope of the Bay	104	11,097.18	5,627.71	644.00	55.67
501413	Marysville, Light of Christ	110	9,286.19	9,624.58	10,837.68	90.15
Circuit 15 - Macomb North						
501501	Clinton Township, St. Luke	764	-	-	-	0.00
501502	Clinton Township, Trinity	1792	35,000.04	37,916.71	35,000.04	20.07
501503	Macomb, Immanuel	2823	6,861.02	-	35,000.00	4.94
501504	Macomb, St. Peter	2701	35,420.00	42,483.66	49,600.34	15.74
501505	Chesterfield, Good Shepherd	85	200.00	200.00	300.00	2.75
501506	New Baltimore, Christ	90	300.00	-	-	1.11
501507	Ray, St. John	183	1,100.00	600.00	1,800.00	6.38

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Circuit 16 - Macomb Northwest						
501601	Bruce Township, Grace	563	27,122.12	21,087.00	20,000.00	40.38
501602	Shelby Township, Peace	479	-	-	2,100.00	1.46
501603	Sterling Heights, Redemption	75	-	-	-	0.00
501604	Sterling Heights, St. Paul	243	700.00	700.00	700.00	2.88
501605	Troy, Faith	2653	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	5.65
501606	Utica, Trinity	3560	59,500.00	48,000.00	48,000.00	14.56
501607	Washington, Our Redeemer	431	8,000.00	-	4,000.00	9.28
501608	Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate	974	48,000.00	44,000.00	48,000.00	47.91
501609	Troy, All Nations	20	-	-	-	0.00
501610	Imlay City, Family of Christ	154	474.26	601.08	558.98	3.54
501611	Troy, Faith Tamil	41	-	-	-	0.00
Circuit 17 - Oakland North						
501701	Clarkston, St. Trinity	425	15,033.26	17,516.59	15,583.37	37.75
501702	Lake Orion, Good Shepherd	546	25,329.51	19,509.41	12,287.00	34.88
501703	Oxford, Holy Cross	163	6,771.00	6,885.00	7,325.00	42.91
501705	Rochester Hills, Crown Of Life	152	3,500.00	1,000.00	2,177.50	14.64
501706	Rochester Hills, Gethsemane	128	1,200.00	1,100.00	1,355.00	9.52
501707	Rochester, Living Word	359	6,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	12.07
501708	Rochester, St. John	1640	100,390.00	68,953.00	59,764.93	46.57
501709	Waterford, St. Stephen	648	-	1,110.00	5,319.00	3.31
501710	Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word	26	-	-	200.00	2.56
501712	Pontiac, St. Paul Community	40	510.00	10.00	3,203.83	31.03
501713	Ortonville, Prince Of Peace	63	-	480.00	-	2.54
511714	Clarkston, The Gathering Place	Mission	-	-	4,428.15	
Circuit 18 - Birmingham						
501802	Birmingham, Our Shepherd	1327	27,839.30	37,974.66	39,635.00	26.49
501803	Birmingham, Redeemer	1276	62,831.78	61,903.04	66,489.35	49.95
501804	Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ	547	66,666.00	89,583.38	46,598.78	123.61
501806	Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods	382	12,551.26	23,154.16	14,215.41	43.56
501807	Clarkston, Our Savior Deaf	52	200.00	500.00	300.00	6.41
501808	Royal Oak, St. Paul	780	21,014.20	12,624.85	8,943.00	18.20
501809	Troy, St. Augustine	177	8,020.00	7,608.00	7,608.00	43.76
501810	Warren, Holy Cross	383	22,000.33	22,000.00	20,166.67	55.85
Circuit 19 - Macomb South						
501901	Eastpointe, St. Peter's	1055	438.00	810.90	520.00	0.56
501902	Eastpointe, St. Thomas	621	2,145.00	2,603.00	3,017.00	4.17
501903	Fraser, St. John	960	60,733.33	60,696.16	64,202.45	64.46
501904	Roseville, Bethlehem	242	-	-	-	0.00
501906	Warren, Hope	800	39,600.00	46,800.00	43,200.00	54.00
501907	Warren, Peace	294	2,100.00	350.00	-	2.78
501908	Warren, Trinity	320	-	-	-	0.00
521909	Eastpointe, Genesis Center	Mission	-	-	67.00	
Circuit 20 - Detroit East						
502001	Detroit, Bethany	105	4,590.00	4,425.00	5,248.40	45.28
502002	Detroit, East Bethlehem	55	1,375.00	1,125.00	875.00	20.45
502003	Detroit, Charity	66	-	-	-	0.00
502005	Detroit, Mount Calvary	110	685.00	-	495.00	3.58
502007	Detroit, Peace	95	250.00	-	-	0.88
802008	Detroit, Redemption	Closed	-	100.00	-	
502009	Detroit, Resurrection	107	-	-	-	0.00
502010	Detroit, Historic Trinity	1168	2,380.00	997.50	-	0.96
Circuit 21 - Detroit West						
502101	Detroit, St. Philips	130	2,758.00	3,126.00	1,350.00	18.55
502103	Detroit, Berea	70	1,000.00	1,000.00	750.00	13.10
502104	Detroit, Pan De Vida	80	-	650.00	450.00	4.58
502105	Detroit, Nazareth	38	-	-	-	0.00
502106	Detroit, St. John	63	-	-	-	0.00
502107	Detroit, St. Stephen	85	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	21.18
502109	Detroit, Evergreen	147	-	-	-	0.00
502110	Detroit, Greenfield Peace	88	1,981.64	2,118.06	3,139.81	27.42
802111	Detroit, Holy Cross	Closed	400.00	-	-	
502112	Detroit, Outer Drive Faith	190	2,259.25	-	-	3.96
502113	Detroit, Redford	115	-	-	315.00	0.91
502114	Dearborn, Atonement	118	-	3,300.00	1,500.00	13.56
Circuit 23 - Down River						
502302	Flat Rock, Community	429	1,050.00	-	-	0.82
502303	Southgate, Christ The King	1463	163,150.00	194,850.00	183,000.00	123.26
502304	Taylor, Our Redeemer	81	1,800.00	1,650.00	1,950.00	22.22
502305	Taylor, St. John's	288	5,200.00	4,800.00	4,400.00	16.67
502306	Trenton, St. Paul	1079	76,006.79	86,360.71	85,289.55	76.51
502307	Wyandotte, Trinity	397	7,984.72	8,983.00	9,768.00	22.45
502308	Allen Park, Mount Hope	149	5,228.74	5,000.00	5,000.00	34.07
502309	Lincoln Park, Calvary	246	-	1,864.71	-	2.53

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Circuit 24 - Monroe						
502401	New Boston, St. John	895	40,161.72	32,542.76	43,305.68	43.21
502402	Newport, Christ Our Shepherd	76	9,000.00	9,000.00	6,800.00	108.77
502403	Monroe, Grace	400	34,171.12	31,954.75	31,520.83	81.37
502404	Monroe, Holy Ghost	588	8,176.00	14,346.41	9,781.45	18.31
502405	Monroe, Immanuel	392	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	25.51
502406	Monroe, Trinity	1001	78,443.24	103,467.86	76,792.11	86.15
502407	Lambertville, Christ The King	170	3,919.50	4,143.67	4,159.04	23.97
502408	Petersburg, St. Peter	203	1,667.00	1,300.00	1,413.00	7.19
802409	Flat Rock, New Hope	Closed	1,176.16	-	-	
Circuit 25 - Dearborn						
502502	Dearborn, Emmanuel	372	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4.48
502503	Dearborn, Guardian	994	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15.09
502504	Dearborn, Our Redeemer	137	2,539.38	600.00	350.00	8.49
502506	Wayne, St. Michael	507	2,383.26	2,599.92	2,816.58	5.13
502508	Westland, Our Saviour	28	600.00	-	300.00	10.71
502509	Westland, St. Matthew	642	-	-	-	0.00
502510	Plymouth, Living Word	187	200.00	-	-	0.36
Circuit 26 - Kensington						
502601	Brighton, Shepherd Of The Lakes	1121	61,400.00	60,488.60	49,945.68	51.10
502602	Highland, Faith	520	20,133.33	21,650.00	22,280.00	41.07
502603	Milford, Christ	367	11,274.33	11,543.15	14,862.01	34.22
502604	South Lyon, Cross of Christ	284	-	250.00	-	0.29
502605	White Lake, Cedar Crest	73	360.00	360.00	360.00	4.93
502606	West Bloomfield, St. Mark's	105	-	-	-	0.00
502607	Walled Lake, St. Matthew	1484	152,978.35	152,360.96	157,834.14	123.63
522609	Walled Lake, St. Matthew (Wixom Site)	Multi-Site	28,119.00	30,501.80	28,598.02	Included Above
502608	Waterford, Peace	459	-	2,000.00	1,000.00	2.18
Circuit 27 - Livonia						
502701	Westland, Salem National	128	1,500.00	1,000.00	-	6.51
502702	Farmington Hills, St. Paul's	392	1,244.20	-	650.00	1.61
502703	Farmington Hills, Prince Of Peace	261	25,004.41	39,747.23	23,863.03	113.17
502704	Northville, St. Paul	439	14,000.04	13,000.02	12,000.00	29.61
502705	Livonia, Christ Our Savior	1272	37,708.33	40,166.67	42,125.00	31.45
502706	Redford, Hosanna-Tabor	250	350.00	600.00	600.00	2.07
502707	Dearborn Heights, Immanuel	252	-	-	-	0.00
502709	Canton, Grace	67	500.00	250.00	500.00	6.22
Circuit 28 - Milan						
502801	Britton, Emmanuel	240	6,912.20	10,514.33	13,585.53	43.07
502802	Saline, Christ Our King	478	6,490.00	31,763.00	30,280.00	47.79
502804	Ypsilanti, Faith	104	250.00	750.00	2,000.00	9.62
502805	Milan, St. Paul	250	9,460.00	10,530.00	3,475.00	31.29
502806	New Boston, St. Paul's	274	10,000.00	7,000.00	5,416.74	27.27
502807	Ann Arbor, St. Thomas	69	3,800.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	53.14
502808	Belleville, Open Arms	249	21,432.25	20,786.49	21,386.88	85.15
502809	Romulus, Tabernacle of Praise	14	-	-	-	0.00
Circuit 29 - Ann Arbor						
502901	Ann Arbor, Divine Shepherd	45	3,031.95	45.00	-	22.79
502902	Ann Arbor, St. Luke	1278	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	58.69
502903	Ann Arbor, Peace	210	26,381.00	26,032.00	28,074.00	127.76
502904	Ann Arbor, St. Paul	743	34,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	46.66
502906	Chelsea, Our Savior	199	19,555.00	19,231.00	19,558.00	97.73
502907	Hamburg, St. Paul	576	32,765.00	32,049.00	31,875.00	55.95
502908	Pinckney, Trinity	119	2,176.00	1,500.00	-	10.30
502911	Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection	124	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,166.00	81.09
Circuit 30 - Jackson						
503001	Adrian, Hope	189	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	63.49
503002	Adrian, St. John's	546	20,083.37	19,250.00	23,165.00	38.16
503003	Brooklyn, St. Mark	195	4,256.40	4,740.00	4,745.00	23.49
503004	Hudson, Our Saviour	134	542.17	537.00	661.00	4.33
503005	Jackson, Redeemer	536	28,947.55	22,248.90	23,571.58	46.50
503006	Jackson, Trinity	794	6,500.00	7,300.10	2,831.30	6.98
503007	Addison, Lutheran Church Of The Lakes	357	15,179.42	16,351.74	16,135.30	44.51
503008	Adrian, St. Matthew's	136	-	270.00	-	0.66
513009	Grass Lake, Grass Lake	Mission	2,381.06	2,437.63	3,340.19	
503010	Blissfield, Blessed Savior	12	-	-	180.00	5.00
Circuit 31 - Petoskey						
503101	Bellaire, Hope	69	-	-	-	0.00
503102	Boyne City, Christ	363	17,559.85	13,337.20	18,168.67	45.06
503103	Charlevoix, Bethany	91	4,663.00	4,300.00	4,105.00	47.87
503104	Gaylord, Trinity	224	15,460.00	11,096.00	11,614.60	56.80
503105	Grayling, Mount Hope	129	9,373.00	11,314.00	11,625.00	83.49
503106	Kalkaska, St. Paul	256	4,250.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	13.35
503107	Mancelona, St. Matthew's	83	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	12.05
503108	Petoskey, Zion	421	15,708.00	13,000.00	9,500.00	30.25

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Circuit 32 - Traverse City						
503201	Benzonia, Our Savior	78	202.95	208.12	500.00	3.89
503202	Elk Rapids, Grace	89	636.33	499.96	366.67	5.63
503203	Cedar, St. Pauls	81	640.00	1,160.00	240.00	8.40
503204	Glen Arbor, Bethlehem	64	1,000.00	6,000.00	-	36.46
503205	Interlochen, Redeemer	327	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	3.98
503206	Leland, Immanuel	186	10,770.76	9,791.60	12,729.16	59.66
503207	Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels	213	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	9.39
503208	Traverse City, Trinity	1230	30,924.66	32,636.34	34,072.76	26.46
Circuit 33 - Manistee						
503301	Arcadia, Trinity	176	5,800.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	33.71
503302	Cadillac, Emmanuel	412	8,220.00	5,480.00	7,535.00	17.18
503304	Ludington, Peace	29	-	1,800.00	1,800.00	41.38
503305	Manistee, Trinity	543	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,645.85	2.85
503306	Mesick, Faith	25	1,875.00	1,125.00	1,500.00	60.00
503307	Manistee, Norwalk	71	200.00	200.00	200.00	2.82
503308	Onekama, Trinity	170	4,412.99	4,174.48	4,415.07	25.50
503309	Scottville, Our Savior	597	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	20.10
503310	Wellston, Beautiful Savior	18	400.00	400.00	-	14.81
503311	Ludington, St. John's	363	5,489.20	5,015.66	6,352.01	15.48
503312	Pentwater, Lighthouse	38	2,700.00	1,700.00	1,800.00	54.39
Circuit 34 - Big Rapids						
503401	Baldwin, Grace	51	200.00	200.00	200.00	3.92
503402	Big Rapids, St. Peter's	593	22,711.80	20,359.47	22,213.88	36.70
503404	Fremont, Redeemer	125	365.50	836.00	271.00	3.93
503405	Mecosta, Chapel Of The Lakes	337	14,124.00	14,035.00	12,148.00	39.87
503406	Reed City, Trinity	477	2,291.67	2,708.33	3,958.35	6.26
503407	White Cloud, Christ	79	4,725.00	5,512.50	4,725.00	63.13
Circuit 35 - Capitol						
503501	Charlotte, First	399	13,405.32	13,715.46	13,786.44	34.17
503505	Holt, Messiah	247	11,612.23	15,224.86	13,778.08	54.81
503506	Holt, St. Matthew	260	2,620.00	3,400.00	4,219.19	13.13
503507	Lansing, Our Savior	788	6,666.64	3,333.34	7,175.02	7.27
503508	Lansing, Trinity	103	-	-	-	0.00
503509	Leslie, Grace	86	8,544.00	7,487.00	8,992.07	96.99
503511	Lansing, Living Word	16	-	-	-	0.00
503512	Howell, Heart of the Shepherd	419	24,938.00	25,101.00	24,911.00	59.63
513513	Holt, Rehoboth	Mission	50.00	-	-	-
503516	Lansing, Good Shepherd	160	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	37.50
Circuit 36 - St Johns						
503601	Carson City, Calvary	76	2,066.25	1,778.75	1,800.00	24.76
503602	DeWitt, Hope	249	1,200.00	1,300.00	700.00	4.28
503603	Fowler, St. Paul	121	-	-	-	0.00
503604	Portland, St. Andrew	200	7,097.05	7,619.15	7,376.18	36.82
503605	Saint Johns, St. John	310	12,000.00	10,000.00	10,600.00	35.05
503606	Saint Johns, St. Peter	485	20,589.38	15,920.35	17,611.50	37.20
503608	East Lansing, Ascension	259	-	2,600.00	4,976.60	9.75
503609	Haslett, St. Luke	568	55,180.00	52,958.00	60,855.00	99.17
Circuit 37 - Tri-River						
503701	Belding, Holy Cross	76	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	15.79
503702	Greenville, Mount Calvary	181	12,050.00	12,650.00	12,100.00	67.77
503703	Howard City, Bethel	185	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	10.81
503704	Ionia, St. John	92	1,350.00	1,050.00	450.00	10.33
503705	Lowell, Good Shepherd	129	5,327.16	5,496.63	4,614.93	39.89
503706	Sand Lake, Resurrection	93	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	12.90
503707	Stanton, Hope	50	1,250.00	1,550.00	1,750.00	30.33
Circuit 38 - Muskegon						
503801	Conklin, Trinity	510	22,382.61	18,000.00	19,500.00	39.14
503802	Montague, St. James	531	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	22.60
503803	Muskegon, Our Redeemer	355	5,416.63	5,000.44	4,416.50	13.93
503804	Norton Shores, St. Mark	667	13,025.00	8,335.00	16,190.00	18.77
503805	Muskegon, Trinity	495	21,000.00	20,000.00	7,970.00	32.98
503806	Nunica, St. Luke	172	8,823.87	6,000.00	8,000.00	44.23
503807	Shelby, St. Stephen's	96	7,351.00	4,796.00	5,430.00	61.03
503808	Whitehall, Faith	286	750.00	6,500.00	9,000.00	18.94
Circuit 39 - Holland						
503901	Coopersville, Grace	316	-	7,587.00	18,031.00	27.02
503902	Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship	337	15,000.00	-	5,000.00	19.78
503903	Grand Haven, St. John's	653	58,371.07	59,692.76	65,431.99	93.67
503904	Holland, Christ Our Savior	220	15,943.68	15,910.03	16,295.52	72.95
503905	Holland, Zion	336	40,052.55	41,903.73	38,492.44	119.49
503907	Spring Lake, St. Matthew	162	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	49.38
503909	West Olive, United	160	1,982.00	1,547.00	1,246.00	9.95

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Circuit 40 - Grand Rapids North-Central						
504001	Grand Rapids, St. Matthew	398	46,100.00	46,200.00	47,475.00	117.06
504002	Grand Rapids, Immanuel	457	26,700.00	24,600.00	26,400.00	56.67
504003	Grand Rapids, Messiah	287	16,271.24	16,245.16	15,066.60	55.26
504004	Grand Rapids, Mount Olive	79	2,200.00	4,100.00	4,000.00	43.46
504005	Grand Rapids, Our Savior	270	-	500.00	500.00	1.23
504007	Grand Rapids, St. James	415	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,949.98	5.98
504008	Rockford, St. Peter	324	17,779.47	14,028.38	13,346.04	46.45
504009	Comstock Park, Family of Christ	81	5,000.00	9,750.00	5,250.00	82.30
Circuit 41 - Grand Rapids Southwest						
504101	Caledonia, St. Paul	638	14,772.28	14,730.69	13,893.22	22.67
504102	Grandville, Bethel	168	2,000.00	1,833.34	500.06	8.60
504103	Hudsonville, New Hope	154	11,109.64	10,653.23	9,929.51	68.60
504104	Jenison, Holy Cross	873	20,800.00	22,000.00	22,400.00	24.89
504105	Jenison, St. John	194	1,302.00	858.00	2,000.00	7.15
504106	Kentwood, St. Mark	530	870.67	1,456.85	2,742.40	3.19
504107	Middleville, Good Shepherd	61	-	-	2,166.67	11.84
504108	Byron Center, Journey of Faith	74	-	-	-	0.00
Circuit 42 - Battle Creek						
504201	Albion, St. Paul	278	18,009.00	17,016.30	18,468.00	64.14
504202	Battle Creek, St. Mark	595	9,611.84	3,873.24	3,885.30	9.73
504203	Battle Creek, Redemption	221	90.00	-	-	0.14
504204	Battle Creek, St. Paul	261	-	-	-	0.00
504205	Kalamazoo, Immanuel	279	4,500.00	2,170.00	8,652.50	18.31
504206	Kalamazoo, Zion	825	10,473.47	12,090.14	12,249.99	14.07
504208	Marshall, Christ	248	11,656.88	11,625.37	10,301.18	45.14
504209	Marshall, Zion	411	10,623.26	9,408.14	9,992.53	24.35
504211	Paw Paw, Trinity	734	19,708.37	22,800.76	16,958.58	27.01
504212	Portage, St. Michael	636	24,000.00	24,300.00	25,200.00	38.52
504213	Three Rivers, St. Peter	175	2,520.00	2,310.00	2,730.00	14.40
Circuit 43 - St Joseph						
504301	Berrien Springs, Trinity	381	-	3,500.00	-	3.06
504302	Bridgman, Immanuel	606	13,750.00	13,750.00	16,250.00	24.06
504303	Buchanan, St. Paul	70	1,578.31	1,359.30	1,759.02	22.36
504304	Cassopolis, St. Paul	88	3,250.00	2,750.00	3,250.00	35.04
504305	Coloma, Salem	296	3,500.00	500.00	1,500.00	6.19
504306	Buchanan, Trinity	318	11,773.25	4,866.00	15,068.00	33.24
504308	Niles, St. Paul	373	10,833.33	14,166.67	5,000.00	26.81
504309	Saint Joseph, Trinity	1379	8,000.00	6,500.00	13,000.00	6.65
504310	Sawyer, Trinity	438	1,656.00	8,264.08	6,651.81	12.61
504311	Stevensville, Christ	1201	6,226.00	8,297.00	15,406.00	8.31
814312	New Buffalo, Journey	Closed	980.00	100.00	-	
Circuit 44 - South Central						
504401	Burr Oak, St. John	140	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,304.00	29.30
504402	Centreville, St. Paul's	151	3,768.30	6,000.00	-	21.56
504403	Sturgis, Salem	30	120.00	120.00	120.00	4.00
504404	Coldwater, St. Paul	148	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	24.32
504405	Colon, St. Paul's	97	1,831.00	4,400.00	-	21.41
504406	Hillsdale, St. Paul's	250	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	5.33
504407	Quincy, Prince Of Peace	46	1,050.00	300.00	-	9.78
504408	Sturgis, Trinity	464	4,750.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	7.72
504409	Union City, Our Savior	134	360.00	360.00	360.00	2.69
GRAND TOTALS		149,734	4,890,601	4,896,672	4,835,283	32.55

* Notes All member congregations of the District as of May 1, 2015 are included as well as mission and closed congregations that have made contributions. Contribution amounts include gifts given for Synod/District ministries and those given for Michigan District only ministries. Does not include restricted giving in support of *The Future is Now* Thank Offering or a particular program, agency, or ministry. Confirmed Member numbers compiled from 2013 statistical report filed with Synod, or most recent data available.

CIRCUIT VISITORS RATIFICATION

WHEREAS, the following ordained ministers of religion have been nominated by their respective circuits according to Bylaw 5.2.2 of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following slate of nominees be ratified by the Michigan District in convention to constitute election.

#1 – Mackinaw Straits	Charles Burhop – St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie
#2 – Alpena	Jason Mandley – St. John, Hillman
#3 – Timberline	Timothy Azzam – Trinity, Oscoda
#4 – Gladwin	Rodney Morrison – Hope, St. Helen
#5 – Midland	Michael Buchhorn – Zion, Auburn
#6 – Bay	William Allwardt – Zion, Bay City
#7 – Thumb East	Kenneth Lueke – Our Savior, Bad Axe
#8 – Thumb West	Steven Bagnall – Good Shepherd, Cass City
#9 – Frankenmuth	Gary Bender – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
#10 – Saginaw	William Hessler – Faith, Bridgeport
#11 – Flint North	Erik Cloeter – Messiah, Clio
#12 – Flint South	Kelly Todd – Christ, Goodrich
#13 – Lapeer	Gary Beck – St. Mark, Flint
#14 – Port Huron	Gerhardt Doroh – Emeritus
#15 – Macomb North	Barry Mueller – Christ, New Baltimore
#16 – Macomb Northwest	Craig Meyer – Shepherd’s Gate, Shelby Twp.
#17 – Oakland	John Kassen – Living Word, Rochester
#18 – Birmingham	Ray Scherbarth – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
#19 – Macomb South	John Merrill – Emeritus
#20 – Detroit East	Steven Essenburg – Missionary at Large for Detroit
#21 – Detroit Central	Eddie Morales – Outer Drive Faith, Detroit
#23 – Down River	Erwin Hutter – Our Redeemer, Taylor
#24 – Monroe	Vacant – TBA
#25 – Dearborn	Randy Duncan – Living Word, Plymouth Twp.
#26 – Kensington	Terry Nelson – Cross of Christ, South Lyon
#27 – Livonia	Dean Davenport – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
#28 – Milan	Jakob Heckert – Emeritus
#29 – Ann Arbor	Larry Courson – Peace, Ann Arbor
#30 – Jackson	Joel Sarrault – St. John’s, Adrian
#31 – Petoskey	Peter Elliott – Christ, Boyne City
#32 – Traverse City	Mark Berlin – Redeemer, Interlochen
#33 – Manistee	Vacant – TBA
#34 – Big Rapids	John Bookshaw – St. Peter, Big Rapids
#35 – Capitol	Travis Downs – Trinity, Lansing
#36 – St. Johns	Edward Filter – St. Andrew, Portland
#37 – Tri–River	Steven Frentz – Bethel, Howard City
#38 – Muskegon	Dennis Lassanske – Emeritus
#39 – Holland	Christopher Boehnke – Lakeshore, Spring Lake
#40 – Grand Rapids N. Central	James Blain – St. James, Grand Rapids
#41 – Grand Rapids Southwest	David Rufner – New Hope, Hudsonville
#42 – Battle Creek	Karl Streng – Redeemer, Battle Creek
#43 – St. Joseph	Michael Roth – Trinity, St. Joseph
#44 – South Central	Aaron Chittick – St. Paul, Coldwater

2015 CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Chairman	Rev. John Bookshaw
Vice Chair	Julie Strobl
Treasurer	Chad Woltemath
Secretary/Publicity	Deb Fall
Registration	Susan Grese
Worship	Rev. Greg Griffith
Worship	Rev. William Wangelin
Elections	Rev. Robert Appold
Housing/Convention Arrangements	Barb Walther
Technology/Social Media	Seth Hinz
Presentations	Linda Ekong
Ministry Tent/Arrangements	Debra Cameron
District President	Rev. David Maier

2015 FLOOR COMMITTEES

Floor Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion

Ordained:

Rev. Paul Appold
Trinity Lutheran Church
3225 Roosevelt Road
Muskegon MI 49441-3909

Rev. Michael Schaedig
St. Luke Lutheran Church
616 South 4th Street
Harrison MI 48625-0623

Commissioned:

Mr. Timothy A. Bode
44100 Harris Road
Belleville MI 48111-8936

Ms. Lisa A. Singleton
2975 Lee Street SW
Grandville MI 49418-2702

Lay:

Mr. Frederick W. Geuder
1056 Newberry Avenue
Petoskey MI 49770

Mr. John W. Kidwell
3086 Sherwood Lane
Bay City MI 48706

Advisory:

District Staff:

Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper and Mr. Raymond Zavada

Floor Committee #2 – Healthy Congregations & Church Workers

Ordained:

Rev. Todd Biermann
Faith Lutheran Church
12534 Holly Road
Grand Blanc MI 48439-1815

Commissioned:

Mr. Paul J. Looker
43078 Hartwick Drive
Sterling Heights MI 48313-1924

Mrs. Amy J. Weston
1715 Paramount Street
Novi MI 48377

Lay:

Mr. Don E. Bogema
1247 E Forest Avenue
Muskegon MI 49442-6041

Mr. Walt Lutzke
612 Rose Avenue
Big Rapids MI 49307

Mr. John W. Nutzmann
11878 Parklane Street
Mount Morris MI 48458

Advisory:

District Staff:

Rev. Galan Walther and Mr. Bruce Braun

Floor Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters

Ordained:

Rev. Daniel Meckes
Faith Lutheran Church
3033 Wilder Road
Bay City MI 48706-2360

Commissioned:

Mrs. Susan L. Hooper
6102 Kings Shire Road
Grand Blanc MI 48439

Mr. Richard C. Krueger
1659 Diamond Court NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505

Mr. Steven D. Meseke
37228 Ingleside Street
Clinton Township MI 48036-2615

Lay:

Mr. Harry F. Dutka
22030 Haig Street
Taylor MI 48180

Mr. Christopher Frank
8200 Moorish Road
Birch Run MI 48415

Mr. Robert Geisler
1415 Westbury Drive
Davison MI 48423-8346

Advisory:

District Staff:

Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram and Mr. Chad Woltemath

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Officially becoming members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod by the Signing of the Constitution

CONGREGATIONS

Blissfield, Blessed Savior – 5/19/2013

Brant, St. John – 8/4/2013

Pontiac, St. Paul – 5/19/2013

MINISTERS OF RELIGION ORDAINED

Adams, Caleb M.	Liss, Joseph T.
Barz, Daniel S.	Llewellyn, Joseph J.
Chittick, Aaron B.	Madson, Mark J.
Doede, Mark R.	Matyas, Dennis W.
Dressler, Martin B.	Potts, Daniel A.
Eden, Joel S.	Rossow, David E.
Ekong, Eric I.	Schultz, Joshua M.
Gerber, Anthony J.	Scott, Robert G.
Gladden, Dietrick A.	Sutton, A. Trevor
Heiden, Michael L.	Sutton, David J.
Hooper, William J.	Tkac, Russell S.
Howard, Daniel C.	Toman, Jason D.
Johnson, Andrew M.	VanBriggle, Richard A.
Johnson, Scott E.	Vergin, Aaron H.
Klamer, Lance D.	Vieregge, Michael S.
Koltz, Gary E.	Vogeli, Mitchell R.
LeClair, Edward P.	Wade, Jeffrey E.

MINISTERS OF RELIGION COMMISSIONED

Armstrong, Kathryn P.	Kamin, Jonathan M.,	Pittman, Janel D.
Asiala, Douglas A.	Keller, Michael T.	Richardson, Brenda C. Koglin
Baringer, Todd	Kern, Hans H.	Rudolph, Erin L.
Barnes, Susan M.	Krc, Mary E.	Schimm, Naomi
Barth, Rachael E.	Lockhart, Susan J. Smith	Schlak, Stephanie M.
Bobowski, Benjamin	Lucas, John K.	Schmit, Steven P.
Briggs, Cynthia M.	Makowski, Rebecca L.	Schroeder, Samantha J.
Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth	McDaniel, Jennifer R.	Sluis, Elizabeth M.
Butler, Harmon R. Jr.	Meckes, Hannah K. Maske	Stahlecker, Karla M.
Chasier, Elizabeth A.	Meier, William F.	Thompson, Adrienne A.
Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz	Milz, Carolyn E.	Vincent, Heath D.
Emington, Stephanie J.	Neumeyer, Sarah	Walsh, Jacquelin B.
Fink, Kelly L. Wiegand	Noelker, James E.	Wascher, Erin M.
Gakstatter, Kari S. Streeter	Parks, Trevor A.	Yoder, Jennifer A. Gremel
Glumm, Julie K. Boes	Pettibone, Katherine L	Zeddies, Brooke R.
Harris, Dawn M.		

Section 5 - Resolutions

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1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 1-01
3 **SUBJECT:** New Ministries ... New Believers
4 **REFERENCE:** Overture 1-01
5
6 **WHEREAS,** the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the mission of the Christian church and is the
7 Lord's will for each of us as Christians and our congregations; and
8
9 **WHEREAS,** the reason for the incarnation and resurrection of our Lord was to seek and save the lost
10 (Luke 19:10); and
11
12 **WHEREAS,** a passion for the souls of people is a component of the existence of the LCMS, as evidenced
13 in a sermon preached by the sainted founder and first president of the LCMS, Dr. C.F.W. Walther,
14 entitled "Bringing Souls to Christ: Every Christian's Desire and Duty"; and
15
16 **WHEREAS,** in that sermon, Dr. Walther proclaimed, "This holy desire is inseparable from a true faith.
17 Whoever has no desire to bring someone else to the knowledge of the saving Gospel has certainly not
18 yet come to know the heavenly power himself." (This sermon, first preached in 1842, was published in
19 Walther's sermon collection, *Gnadenjahr. Predigten ueber die Evangelien des Kirchenjahrs* - pp. 439-445
20 [Saint Louis, Concordia, 1891]); and
21
22 **WHEREAS,** our District President, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, at the direction of the Michigan District
23 Board of Directors, has called upon our congregations to address four Critical Outcomes, the first of
24 which is Great Commission Ministry; and
25
26 **WHEREAS,** each congregation is uniquely situated in a community in which non-Christians are present,
27 therefore be it
28
29 **Resolved,** that every congregation make every effort to develop at least one new approach to reach out
30 to people in its own community in the next triennium; and be it further
31
32 **Resolved,** that these actions be highlighted in Michigan District communications; and be it finally
33
34 **Resolved,** that the Circuit Visitors report on the actions and effectiveness of such actions of each
35 congregation in their 2018 report to the Michigan District Convention.
36
37 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
38 Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-02
SUBJECT: To Let our Light Shine in the Darkness Around Us
REFERENCE: Overture 1-11

WHEREAS, our United States of America has become increasingly secularized and is, in fact, now a major mission field; and

WHEREAS, Jesus commissions His church to make disciples of all nations, including people living in our own nation (Matthew 28:19-20); and

WHEREAS, Jesus urges his disciples to love the way he has loved us (John 13:34) and states: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 ESV); and

WHEREAS, Jesus entreats us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16 ESV); and

WHEREAS, God the Holy Spirit reminds us: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Psalm 133:1 ESV); and

WHEREAS, God the Holy Spirit reminds us that “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12 ESV); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul entreats us to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3 ESV), in our battle against the spiritual forces of evil; therefore be it

Resolved, that in our personal lives we seek to love others as Jesus loves us and that we live in such a way so that He is glorified, and be it further

Resolved, that in our congregations, our Michigan District, and our Synod, we intensify efforts to reach others with the Gospel message, and be it further

Resolved, that our congregations and church workers be commended again to review and abide by the Ethics Documents of the Michigan District as adopted by the 2009 Michigan District Convention, and be it further

Resolved, that in our congregations, our Michigan District, and our Synod, we treat one another with gentleness, love, and respect, and be it finally

Resolved, that our dealings with individuals, congregations, and church bodies that are not a part of our LCMS be conducted with the utmost kindness and the greatest cooperation that is possible while still being faithful to our church body’s fellowship principles.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 1-03
3 **SUBJECT:** To Support the “Here We Stand” Initiative in Celebration of the
4 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
5 **REFERENCE:** Overture 1-06
6
7 **WHEREAS,** the Lutheran Reformation has been an inestimable blessing to all Christendom and the world
8 by upholding the central Christian doctrine of justification by faith in Christ Jesus; and
9
10 **WHEREAS,** the confessional heritage of our District is traced in large measure to the influence of Martin
11 Luther and those confessors with him who believed and bravely taught the Word of God, which declares
12 salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone; and
13
14 **WHEREAS,** the commonly marked anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation is celebrated in
15 commemoration of the posting of the Ninety-Five Theses by Martin Luther, October 31, 1517; and
16
17 **WHEREAS,** the year 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, a unique
18 opportunity to invite again the world’s attention to the pure Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions;
19 and
20
21 **WHEREAS,** all congregations of the Michigan District, by expressing acceptance of the Holy Scriptures as
22 the written Word of God and all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true
23 exposition of that Word of God, share the foundation of confessional unity; and
24
25 **WHEREAS,** a celebration of our Reformation heritage and unity under the Word of God is a powerful
26 witness to the world and encouragement to the whole church; therefore be it
27
28 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District, under the auspices of the District President, will commence a
29 District-wide Reformation celebration; and be it further
30
31 **Resolved,** that the celebration of this historic anniversary be entitled *Here We Stand*, in honor of the
32 historic “Here I Stand” statement of the Reformation ascribed to Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms on
33 April 18, 1521; and be it further
34
35 **Resolved,** that the *Here We Stand* initiative be inspired by the words of Psalm 71:17-18, “*O God,*
36 *You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old*
37 *and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all*
38 *who are to come,*” so that we do all that is humanly possible to insure that the true and pure Word of
39 God is boldly proclaimed to this generation and to generations to come; and be it further
40
41 **Resolved,** that the *Here We Stand* celebration include a District-wide thank offering with a goal of
42 \$10,000,000, which, prayerfully, will have an impact on four areas of the Michigan District mission and
43 ministry, including Professional Church Worker Scholarships, Innovative Missional Ministry, Michigan
44 District Endowment, and International Ministry (continued support of LCMS international missionaries
45 from Michigan and other mission efforts); and be it further
46
47 **Resolved,** that the *Here We Stand* emphasis include organized events and activities throughout the
48 District during 2017 to serve as a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and to

1 intentionally spread the Word of God to the neighborhoods and communities in which these events will
2 be held; and be it further

3
4 **Resolved**, that all congregations of the Michigan District be encouraged to participate in the district-
5 wide worship service to be held on October 15, 2017 at the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan
6 State University in East Lansing, Michigan; and be it finally

7
8 **Resolved**, that the congregations and individuals of the Michigan District be encouraged to participate
9 by financially supporting the initiatives, by participating in community celebration events and the
10 district-wide celebration worship service, and by diligently praying that the *Here We Stand* thank
11 offering will make an impact for the sake of Christ's Kingdom for generations to come.

12
13 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
14 Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-04
SUBJECT: To Encourage Lutheran School Ministry
REFERENCE: Overture 1-05

WHEREAS, in Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”; and

WHEREAS, in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, Christ reminds the church to teach Scripture to all nations, including children: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”; and

WHEREAS, in Acts 2:39, Peter reminds the church that the gift of the Holy Spirit and forgiveness is “for you and your children”; and

WHEREAS, some congregations of the Michigan District have had Lutheran schools that have been involved in teaching children about Christ even before the Synod was formed in 1847, and these schools have developed faithful laypeople, dedicated church workers, and countless church leaders; and

WHEREAS, 7 high schools, 78 elementary schools, and 158 early childhood centers daily serve the educational needs of almost 15,000 students in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these same schools daily incorporate the Gospel message into their instruction, seek to develop Christian disciples integrating faith development into all academic disciplines, and encourage Lutheran teachers to be role models, and to pray for the students and families they serve; and

WHEREAS, 17% of students (according to national synodical statistics) have no church home and often become connected to a local congregation through pastors and teachers who introduce Christ to them through Lutheran Schools; and

WHEREAS, research by George Barna indicates the highest probability of embracing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is during elementary school, ages 5-12 (*Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, page 34); and

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools teach a biblical worldview that stands in sharp contrast to the culture and secular worldview taught in public schools and modern society; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools and a biblical worldview are needed in our culture, and the need for teaching children about their Savior is greater than ever; and

WHEREAS, the annual amount of time a child spends in a Lutheran School is many times greater than the time a child with perfect church and Sunday School attendance will spend in church only; and

WHEREAS, teachers in Lutheran schools have enormous impact on the faith formation of children in their school and congregation; therefore be it

1 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in its 2015 convention thank God for the congregational ministry
2 accomplished through Lutheran schools; and be it further
3

4 **Resolved**, that congregations without a school ministry pray for their neighboring Lutheran schools and
5 investigate how they might encourage all parents in their parish and community to consider enrolling
6 their children in a Lutheran school and also seek to creatively enhance Christian education in their
7 respective congregations; and be it further
8

9 **Resolved**, that congregations consider forming associations and collaborating together to increase the
10 mission impact of Michigan District Lutheran schools; and be it finally
11

12 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District, LCMS encourage “People of Hope” to help Lutheran schools to
13 continue to grow in academic excellence, community connectedness, and spiritual effectiveness in
14 preparing future citizens of our country and heaven.
15

16 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
17 Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 1-05
3 **SUBJECT:** To Intentionally Initiate Mercy Ministries in our Communities
4 **REFERENCE:** Overture 1-08, 1-09
5
6 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus said, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of
7 mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40); and
8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Apostle Paul by inspiration instructs us, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at
10 the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do
11 good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Gal. 6:9-10); and
12
13 **WHEREAS**, common needs are experienced in unique and various ways in every community where
14 God’s people gather around Word and Sacrament; and
15
16 **WHEREAS**, God’s people are called to be “neighbor” to our fellow human regardless of his/her station in
17 life, as demonstrated by Jesus in His recounting the episode of the Good Samaritan, and as Luther
18 expressed in his explanation to the Fifth Commandment; and
19
20 **WHEREAS**, Jesus consistently demonstrated mercy through His many healings and thereby also gave
21 express testimony to the presence and power of God’s kingdom; and
22
23 **WHEREAS**, the church, as the body of Christ, “doesn’t do acts of mercy to get people into the church but
24 because we are the church” (comments by LCMS President Matthew Harrison at a conference in
25 Saginaw, Mich. in 2010); and
26
27 **WHEREAS**, St. Peter instructs us, “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an
28 answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15); and
29
30 **WHEREAS**, Selflessly serving to meet the needs of others gives evidence of Christ’s love within us and
31 builds relationships of trust through which the message of salvation in Jesus Christ can be
32 communicated with compassion and relevance; therefore be it
33
34 **Resolved**, that every congregation and circuit of the Michigan District be encouraged to intentionally
35 study their respective communities to determine the needs of individuals or groups of people that are
36 not adequately met; and be it further
37
38 **Resolved**, that each congregation and circuit be encouraged to also evaluate their unique position and
39 abilities to meet those needs with the love of Christ through acts of service and mercy; and be it further
40
41 **Resolved**, that each congregation and circuit (where feasible) of the Michigan District, LCMS
42 intentionally seek to initiate or participate in at least one new mercy ministry to address the needs of
43 their local community in the next triennium; and be it further
44
45 **Resolved**, that where existing programs may already be in place in the community, with whom the
46 congregation may not be able to officially enter into partnership, that individual members and/or groups
47 be encouraged to participate in these community organizations which are doing good in their
48 communities, thereby giving witness to God’s love in Jesus; and be it finally

1
2 **Resolved,** that stories of God’s mercy at work through His people be highlighted through the
3 Communications Department of the Michigan District office for the purpose of continued
4 encouragement to God’s people and to glorify God for the privilege of serving as we bear His name.
5

6 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
7 Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-06
SUBJECT: To Encourage the Use of Resources Provided by our LCMS
Disability Ministry Task Force
REFERENCE: Overture 1-02

WHEREAS, Our Lord ministered to the needs of all people and asked His followers to emulate His example; and

WHEREAS, “All people” includes individuals with disabilities (those who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hearing impaired, have developmental disabilities, live with severe mental illnesses, etc.) which may impact life activities; and

WHEREAS, People with disabilities are often faced with physical and attitudinal barriers to full participation in worship, education, fellowship, and service activities; and

WHEREAS, The removal of physical and attitudinal barriers is a sign of Christian love and hospitality to all; and

WHEREAS, People with disabilities are able to make positive contributions to parish life lived under the cross; and

Whereas, our Synod has established a Disability Ministry Task Force which has done commendable work and provided multiple resources; therefore be it

Resolved, That the District President direct the District’s Communications Department to annually encourage all congregations to access resources readily available from the Disability Ministry Task Force of the Synod on the LCMS website www.lcms.org/socialissues/disability; and be it further

Resolved, That all congregations intentionally seek to implement suggestions provided by the Disability Ministry Task Force in order for people with disabilities to participate more fully in the life and ministry of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, These actions be highlighted in Michigan District communications; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Circuit Visitors report on the actions and effectiveness of such actions of each congregation in their 2018 report to the Michigan District Convention.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-07
SUBJECT: To Protect Children from Sexual Abuse within the Michigan District Congregations, Schools, and Communities
REFERENCE: Overture 1-04

WHEREAS, while the prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to determine because it is often not reported, experts agree that the incidence is far greater than what is reported to authorities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau report *Child Maltreatment 2010* found that 9.2% of victimized children were sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, studies by David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center, show that:

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse;
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident;
- During a one-year period in the U. S., 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized;
- Children are most vulnerable to Child Sexual Abuse between the ages of 7 and 13; and

WHEREAS, victims of child sexual abuse are found in every community, every socio-economic category and every walk of life; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse can and does occur even within our congregations and our communities; and

WHEREAS, God desires that all children are loved and cherished, nurtured and guided; therefore be it

Resolved, that all congregations be encouraged to have a Child Protection Policy in place; and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and his staff provide adequate access to resources for congregations to assess their Child Protection Policies; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations be encouraged to develop educational programs and strategies to detect and deter child sexual abuse within our congregations, schools, and communities; and be it finally

Resolved, that we pray to God for guidance for all who work with, mentor, or parent children in all our vocations and that He would give each of us the grace to be His hands of protection and nurture.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-08
SUBJECT: To Root Men and Women in Their Baptismal Identity
REFERENCE: Overture 1-07

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture (Genesis 1: 27) and the Lutheran Confessions (SA 11:2) are unequivocal that we are created male or female and that a husband is the husband of one wife and a wife is the wife of one husband; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention has consistently affirmed the same (2013 Res. 2-07A & 2004 Res. 3-05A); and

WHEREAS, our only lasting and true identity is our baptismal identity in the name of the Triune God – God the Father who created us, God the Son who redeemed us from sin, death, and the devil, and God the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers enlightens, and sanctifies us; and

WHEREAS, in our contemporary culture there is much confusion about identity, and the proliferation of false identities such as homosexual, transsexual, or bisexual; and

WHEREAS, although the title ‘heterosexual’ seeks to defend against false teachings, but itself falls into the same trap of granting an identity that is outside of Scripture and our baptismal identity in the Triune God; therefore be it

Resolved, that we eagerly confess the vocation of marriage – the life-long union of one man and one woman which itself points to Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-33), without mistaking this to be our Christian identity; and be it further

Resolved, that we seek to confess our identity where it is located: men and women created of the Father, men and women redeemed and recreated by the Son, men and women called, gathered, and enlightened by God the Holy Spirit; and all of this in the Word and water of Baptism; and be it further

Resolved, that we avoid falling into any and all traps that seek to ground our identity beyond what was given and restored to us in Baptism; and be it further

Resolved, that we celebrate that this baptismal identity is anchored in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, Himself the bridegroom of his bride, the church, and that this baptismal identity will endure at His second coming; and be it finally

Resolved, that as people are being encouraged by the voices of the age to “discover who they are,” we, the church, be prepared to eagerly point them to whom the Triune God has already made them to be as men and women baptized in Christ Jesus.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

NOTE: This resolution is in part a response to two very insightful articles by Michael W. Hannon in ‘First Things.’ Those Articles are:

- ‘Against Heterosexuality’ (<http://www.firstthings.com/article/2014/03/against-heterosexuality>),
- And ‘Against Obsessive Sexuality’ (<http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/08/against-obsessive-sexuality>).

COMMITTEE NAME:	GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER:	1-09
SUBJECT:	To Address How Best to Deal With Same-Sex Marriage
REFERENCE:	Overture 1-10

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention (2013 Res. 2-07A) stated: “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:27 and Matt. 19:4-6) and also that “The earthly relationship between husband and wife is to reflect Christ’s relationship to His bride, the Church” (Eph. 5:21-33), which Scriptures are foundational for all teaching about marriage and family; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention (2004 Res. 3-05A) affirmed “on the basis of Scripture, marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman” (Gen. 2:2-24; Matt. 19:5-6); and

WHEREAS, the LCMS in convention (2001 Res. 2-08A) encouraged its congregations “to minister to homosexuals and their families in a spirit of compassion and humility, recognizing that ‘all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus’” (Rom. 3:23-24); and

WHEREAS, many states have legalized same-sex marriages and the Supreme Court is considering whether same-sex couples have a right to marriage; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention affirms previous convention resolutions concerning the biblical picture of marriage; and be it further

Resolved, that, with regard to same-sex marriage, all Christians should prayerfully seek how best to compassionately care for the erring, while maintaining the truth of God's Word (Matt. 10:16), loving the sinner while hating the sin (Jude 22-23); and be it further

Resolved, that, on the basis of the clear Word of God, pastors of the Michigan District, LCMS shall not bless or perform a wedding of a same-sex couple (Jer. 8:11), even if it means that the government may prohibit those pastors from performing any weddings (Acts 5:29); and be it further

Resolved, that the Michigan District requests the Synod to look into the ramifications, legal and otherwise, of pastors performing only religious unions, not civil weddings and report the same to the Council of Presidents; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Michigan District requests that Synod communicates guidelines for providing compassionate care for same-sex couples.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: GREAT COMMISSION & GREAT COMPASSION
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-10
SUBJECT: To Encourage Participation in Theological Conferences
REFERENCE: Overture 1-03

WHEREAS, the Michigan District has provided excellent annual theological conferences during the past triennium; and

WHEREAS, these conferences provide excellent opportunities for professional church workers and lay people to examine key areas of the church and its doctrines; and

WHEREAS, such conferences build and celebrate our unity in the faith; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention thank the district leadership for providing such conferences and encourage it to continue to do so, and be it finally

Resolved, that all congregations be encouraged to publicize the conferences and recruit individuals to attend future theological conferences.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Great Commission & Great Compassion
Rev. Mark Brandt, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 2-01
3 **SUBJECT:** To Encourage an Ethic of Bible Reading
4 **REFERENCE:** Overture 2-01, 2-02, 2-03
5
6 **WHEREAS,** God reveals Himself through His inerrant Word and invites us to receive His blessings
7 through it (cf. Romans 10:17, John 20:31, 2 Timothy 3:16-17); and
8
9 **WHEREAS,** the Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to draw us to and build us up in Jesus; and
10
11 **WHEREAS,** we find that revealed Word of God recorded in the 66 books of the Bible; and
12
13 **WHEREAS,** Article V of the Augsburg Confession encourages regular use of God's Word; and
14
15 **WHEREAS,** having the Bible available for reading by lay people was a central goal of the Reformation;
16 and
17
18 **WHEREAS,** the Bible has never been more accessible for people through print and electronic media; and
19
20 **WHEREAS,** the church needs the power of the Word now as much as ever; therefore be it
21
22 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District in convention call, challenge, and encourage all Michigan District
23 congregations to maintain or implement programs that will enable members to consistently and
24 continually read through the Bible, and be it finally
25
26 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District elected leaders and staff make available tools and programs that
27 will build an ethic of Bible reading in our congregations and encourage them in this ongoing practice.
28
29 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
30 Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

COMMITTEE NAME: HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-02
SUBJECT: To Support Local Congregational Priority in Ministry
REFERENCE: Overture 2-06

WHEREAS, God instituted congregations; and

WHEREAS, God entrusted the Keys of the Kingdom to congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Synod as an organization is of human origin; and

WHEREAS, an undue concentration on the bureaucracy and work of the Synod can dilute the efforts of local congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2016 LCMS Convention an overture with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statement:

Resolved, that both district and synodical leadership focus their emphasis and resources on the health and vitality of local congregations by identifying and promoting programs or ministries that grow out of those congregations.

Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

COMMITTEE NAME: HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-03
SUBJECT: To Assist Fellow Congregations in Utilizing Practices of Excellence for Ministry
REFERENCE: Overture 2-04

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is composed of approximately 6,000 congregations and numerous organizations, all with unique settings, gifts, talents, and experiences; and

WHEREAS, each congregation and entity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod desires, through God’s leading, grace, and power, to disciple followers of Christ and share His love in the most effective way possible; and

WHEREAS, each of these congregations and entities has, over time and with the blessing of our heavenly Father, developed practices of excellence in various areas of witness, mercy, and life together; and

WHEREAS, sharing of these “practices of excellence” within the Synod among congregations and entities is difficult; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District, within the next triennium, will undertake the creation of a “Practices of Excellence” Electronic Database and inform the congregations of the district of its existence, which will then allow congregations and entities within the district to efficiently participate in an exchange of information; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2016 LCMS Convention an overture with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statements:

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, within the next triennium, will undertake the creation of a “Practices of Excellence” Electronic Database and inform the congregations of Synod of its existence, which will then allow congregations and entities within the Synod to efficiently participate in an exchange of information; and be it further

Resolved, that this information will consist of “practices of excellence” which individual congregations and other entities have shown to accomplish the sharing of God’s Gospel and His love in a powerful way; and be it further

Resolved, that the “Practices of Excellence” Database will also contain demographic, geographic, and other information which will allow congregations and other entities to determine appropriate application of these practices within the context into which our Lord has placed them; and be it finally

Resolved, that through the exchange of these “practices of excellence,” our congregations and other entities will, by God’s grace, power, and will, become more effective in the glorious task of reaching into this world with the love, grace, and glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

COMMITTEE NAME: HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-04
SUBJECT: To Encourage Sabbath Rest (Sabbaticals, etc.)
REFERENCE: Overture 2-09

WHEREAS, our God created the world in six days and on the seventh He rested; and

WHEREAS, God's people, both lay and clergy, need times of rest and refreshment around Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS, God's people also need rest and refreshment from duties and responsibilities connected with work; and

WHEREAS, the pressures of today continue to mount and increase substantially; and

WHEREAS, an increasing sense of guilt among church workers who do take a "Sabbath rest" is recognized; and

WHEREAS, it is vital for the life of the worker to make God, family, and rest of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, sabbaticals have been shown (cf. Michigan District document *Sabbatical Guidelines*) to be beneficial to both church workers and their congregations upon return as the workers are re-energized, renewed, and strengthened for service and leadership; therefore be it

Resolved, that congregational leaders and church workers work collegiately to develop, maintain, and ensure that the church worker(s) take a minimum of one day off, and also time off on Sunday afternoons and evenings when possible; and be it further

Resolved, that every congregation adopt a policy governing sabbatical leave for church workers in the next triennium as an ongoing intentional part of the congregation's and school's ministry, rather than a reaction to a crisis (i.e. burnout, forced removal, etc.); and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations seek to maintain and preserve Sabbath rest and sabbatical practice for their church workers.

Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 2-05
3 **SUBJECT:** To Encourage Congregations to Provide Health Insurance
4 Benefits to Church Workers
5
6 **WHEREAS,** the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and healthy church workers
7 are better equipped to serve healthy congregations; and
8
9 **WHEREAS,** the traditional practice for LCMS congregations has been to provide comprehensive health
10 benefits for their eligible workers, either through the Concordia Health Plan or other health plan
11 providers; and
12
13 **WHEREAS,** health insurance costs for Michigan District congregations and their eligible workers
14 continue to increase, often at or near double-digit annual percentage increases; and
15
16 **WHEREAS,** the Affordable Care Act has attempted to provide easier and sometimes subsidized access to
17 healthcare on the Marketplace, which could provide some opportunity for churches and schools to
18 abandon group health care plans, forcing their eligible workers to find coverage on the Marketplace or
19 elsewhere; and
20
21 **WHEREAS,** the Marketplace and other health plans may include coverage for procedures, such as
22 abortion, that are not in line with sanctity of life and other beliefs of The Lutheran Church–Missouri
23 Synod; therefore be it
24
25 **Resolved,** that churches and schools be encouraged to allocate financial resources for health coverage
26 for their eligible workers and families, giving special consideration to Concordia Health Plan or other
27 plans that are designed to allow for religious conscientious exceptions; and be it finally
28
29 **Resolved,** that churches and schools without the financial means to provide health coverage for their
30 eligible workers consider collaboration or merger with other churches and schools to provide health
31 care coverage for all their eligible workers.
32
33 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
34 Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 2-06
3 **SUBJECT:** To Provide Congregational Unity in Financial Support of Our
4 Synod
5 **REFERENCE:** Overture 2-05
6

7 **WHEREAS**, we have a long-standing practice of congregations sending a portion of their offerings to
8 their district to support mission and ministry in their district and with an expectation that their district
9 will send a portion of those funds to the Synod to support mission and ministry; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the model has never been officially reversed, removed or replaced; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, we have seen a proliferation of appeals from all corners of the Synod for funds which has
14 created an individualistic approach to fund-raising rather than championing the biblical practice of
15 tithing and unifying the work of the Synod; therefore be it
16

17 **Resolved**, that each Michigan District congregation be encouraged to honor synodical fellowship by
18 growing into giving a full-tithe directly to the district; and be it further
19

20 **Resolved**, that the board of directors of the Michigan District continue its historic leading role in giving
21 to the work of the Synod; and be it further
22

23 **Resolved**, that the amount forwarded to the Synod be annually determined by action of the board of
24 directors; and be it finally
25

26 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2016 LCMS Convention an overture
27 with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statement:
28

29 **Resolved**, that districts and Synod be encouraged to rely on unrestricted offerings from
30 congregations to carry out the mission of the church.
31

32 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
33 Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & CHURCH WORKERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 2-07
3 **SUBJECT:** To Build Toward an Ethic of Tithing
4 **REFERENCE:** Overture 2-07, 2-08
5
6 **WHEREAS,** tithing is the ancient and consistent practice of the people of God; and
7
8 **WHEREAS,** tithing has great promises attached to it; and
9
10 **WHEREAS,** tithing serves to reduce our personal confidence in money and increase our trust in God; and
11
12 **WHEREAS,** these blessings of tithing are often misunderstood and not realized; and
13
14 **WHEREAS,** tithing by congregants to their local congregation would provide ample resources for local
15 kingdom work and thereby work towards eliminating non-biblical and worldly forms of fund raising;
16 therefore be it
17
18 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District in Convention call, encourage, and challenge all District
19 congregations to maintain or implement programs that will enable members to grow in the grace of
20 giving generally and develop the disciplines of tithing and Biblical financial management specifically, and
21 be it further;
22
23 **Resolved,** that the pastors of the Michigan District clearly, intentionally, and regularly preach and teach
24 the Biblical ethic of tithing, and be it finally
25
26 **Resolved,** that the District Stewardship Committee provide continued encouragement, tools, and
27 programs that will build an ethic of tithing in our congregations.
28
29 Submitted by: Committee #2 - Healthy Congregations & Church Workers
30 Rev. John Duerr & Rev. Donald Neuendorf, Co-Chairmans

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-01
SUBJECT: To Amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Michigan District
REFERENCE: Overture 3-09

Rationale:

- The Michigan District Board of Directors proposes the following amendments to the District's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The board has focused on three broad areas:
 - Revisions required by changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod, changing conditions, and review by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters;
 - Matters pertaining to Michigan law and compliance;
 - Working for greater clarity and efficiency in the language and structure of the bylaws.

Required Revisions:

- The board proposes a revision of Bylaw 2.4, making the quorum required for a legal convention "at least one-third of the voting member congregations represented by at least one of their respective representatives (pastor or lay delegate)" as mandated in Synod Constitution XII.14. This same quorum rule has also been applied to regional assemblies (cf. proposed Bylaw 3.7).
- Bylaw 5.8c currently directs the regional nominating committee to draw up from its region a list of candidates and alternates for the board of directors and the nominating committee.

Synod Bylaw 4.7.2 states that nominating committees of any kind are not to be used to develop slates for regional board of director positions, even if such nominating committees are regional. Bylaw 5.8c is therefore no longer valid: a nominating committee of any kind may not be used to draw up a list of candidates and alternates for regional board of directors positions (see Synod Bylaw 4.7.1). The example of Synod Bylaw 4.2.1(a) would indicate the use of a regional nomination process.

The board proposes a nomination process for regional board of directors candidates similar to that currently used for the nomination of regional Vice-Presidents. The proposed procedure is included as Bylaw 5.13 below.

- The Synod adopted Resolution 7-02A, "To Return to Use of Title 'Circuit Visitor,'" at its 2013 convention, and the amendment to the Synod constitution included in the resolution was ratified by the congregations of the LCMS. The board proposes replacement of the title "circuit counselor(s)" with "circuit visitor(s)" in all instances (proposed Bylaws 5.1, 5.5, 5.12, 7.3b and current Bylaw 8.6).
- Since Concordia University-Ann Arbor (CUAA) has entered into an alliance with Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), under which CUW's Board of Regents assumed responsibility for governance and CUAA's Board of Regents was dissolved, the board proposes that all references to the Concordia University-Ann Arbor Board of Regents be removed from the Bylaws (current Bylaws 5.7a, 5.7b, 5.8d and 5.15).

- Upon review of the District Bylaws and all proposed revisions, the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod has offered its recommendations and expectations. In addition to changes to the proposed revisions from those found in Convention Workbook I, the CCM's recommendations are reflected in the proposed revisions as follows:
 - Revisions to current Bylaw 2.3;
 - The deletion of current Bylaw 5.3(e);
 - Revisions to current Bylaws 5.6(b), 5.6(f) and 5.10;
 - The addition of a new Bylaw 6.4, and renumbering of the succeeding bylaws in Article VI;
 - The addition of references to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws in Bylaws 8.1 and 11.1.

Proposed Revisions (Michigan Law, Clarity and Efficiency):

- The board proposes a revision to the Articles of Incorporation to remove the word "Inc." from our name. It is not required, or even necessary, to include "Inc." in the name of either an ecclesiastical or nonprofit corporation.
- Article I – Membership and Organization is revised for greater clarity.
- Working toward a more efficient bylaw structure, Articles III (Regional Assemblies) and XIV (Regions) are combined into a proposed Article III – Regions and Regional Assemblies. The proposed Article III is revised for greater clarity.
- Article V – Elections is retitled (see below) and revised for greater clarity.
- To enable the district to continue to find qualified servant leaders with the necessary financial expertise, the board recommends adopting an amendment to Bylaw 5.1, allowing the board of directors to appoint the district treasurer (cf. Constitution XII.3e). Note that, according to Bylaw 5.3, the treasurer is still appointed for 3-year terms, and still may serve no more than 4 consecutive terms before taking a 3-year break.
- Working toward a more efficient bylaw structure, Bylaws 5.5 (If President Is Unable to Serve) and 5.6 (Vacancies) are incorporated into Article VI (Succession). The proposed Article VI is re-titled Vacancies and Succession, and is revised for greater clarity.
- Article VII – Board of Directors is revised for greater clarity. Two additional items are included:
 - The board's power to appoint committees and task forces has been relocated from the present Article XII (Committees) to proposed Bylaw 7.2(a);
 - A provision allowing for electronic participation in board meetings has been added as proposed Bylaw 7.4(c). This is allowed under Michigan law, provided provision is made in our governing documents.
- Working toward a more efficient bylaw structure, Articles XII (Committees) and XIII (Commissions) are reworked and combined into Article XII – Commissions and Task Forces. The article now refers solely to the district convention's ability to appoint such bodies, and is revised for greater clarity. Articles following the new Article XII are renumbered.

- Working toward a clearer bylaw structure, Bylaws 9.5-9.8, referring to indemnification of directors, are moved to their own separate article, titled Article XV – Indemnification.
- The board proposes an addition to the renumbered Article XVI – Amendments. This addition would allow the board of directors to make necessary amendments to the bylaws following a Synod convention without having to wait and bring them before the district convention. This addition is modeled on Synod Bylaw 7.1.2, which gives power to the Synod’s Board of Directors to amend bylaws when directed to do so by a Synod convention. Amendments made this way will require prior review by the Commission on Constitutional Matters and a two-thirds majority of the board for approval.

Therefore, be it **Resolved** that Article I of the Michigan District’s Articles of Incorporation be amended as follows (deletions are ~~struck through~~):

The name of the corporation is MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD, ~~INC.~~

And be it finally

Resolved that the bylaws of the Michigan District be amended as indicated on the following pages (Deletions are ~~struck through~~; additions are in ***bold italic type***).

In ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

1.2 The district shall establish an organizational structure for the effective operation of its program and conduct of its affairs, which structure shall embrace the convention, regional assemblies, the board of directors, circuits, and such other ***entities***, boards, commissions ***and*** committees, ~~officers and~~ ~~functionaries~~ as may from time to time be established.

1.3. ~~The governance and control of the district’s affairs shall be conducted on the basis of~~
The district shall be administered through four (4) levels of organization:

- a. The convention ~~which shall consist of the district at large through its delegates in convention assembled and shall be the governing body of the district subject to the constitution, bylaws and resolutions of Synod, and to these bylaws~~ ***is the meeting of the voting member congregations represented by their delegates.***
- b. The regional assemblies ~~(4)~~ shall meet prior to the district convention, at which time delegates shall consist of the regularly elected and ***certified delegates*** ~~delegated representatives, cf 2.3 of~~ said regions ***(Cf. Bylaw 2.3)***. ~~The purpose of the regional assemblies shall be to evaluate their regional as well as district needs, and to nominate for district elections.~~
- c. The board of directors shall be ~~construed as district in constant session to establish policy and direct the~~ ***responsible for the overall policy and*** affairs of the district subject to the Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions of Synod, and to these bylaws and the resolutions of the district in convention.

- d. The circuits shall carry out resolutions of the Synod and the district ~~They shall interpret, administer and engage in the objectives of the Synod locally, in accordance with Synod Bylaw 1.3.6.~~ **(Cf. Synod Bylaw 1.3.6).**

In ARTICLE II - CONVENTIONS

2.3 Representation – The district convention shall be composed of regularly elected and **certified delegates** ~~delegated representatives~~ and of certain individual persons, as follows **(Cf. Synod Bylaw 4.2.2)**:

- a. ~~Representatives~~ **Delegates** of congregations entitled to vote. Every congregation or parish is entitled to two (2) votes, one (1) of which is to be cast by the pastoral **delegate** and the other by the lay delegate.
- b. The advisory members of the Synod (Constitution, Art. V B).
- c. Advisory representatives of the board of directors, other boards, commissions, and educational institutions and such as by virtue of their office are required to attend district conventions.

2.4 Quorum – ~~For a legal convention, a constitutional convocation of the meeting and the presence of at least one-fourth of the constitutionally elected voting representatives~~ **To conduct business, a convention must have present at least one-third of the voting member congregations represented by at least one of their respective voting representatives (pastor or lay delegate) are necessary.** ~~(Cf. Constitution XII.14).~~

ARTICLE III – REGIONS AND REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES

14.1

3.1 ~~The convention by resolution shall establish no less than~~ **There shall be** four (4) regions within the Michigan District.

14.2

3.2 Regions shall consist of **a group of** circuits designated by the enabling resolution **created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.**

14.3 ~~Regions existing at the time of the adoption of these Bylaws shall continue until further resolution of the convention.~~

14.4 Circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

3.1

3.3 Regional assemblies shall meet ~~on the first Saturday in May~~ **no later than 45 days** prior to the convention of the Michigan District. **The date shall be communicated to congregations no later than 30 days prior to the regional assembly.** The regional vice-president shall call at a place of his choosing ~~an~~ **and chair the** assembly of his region **at a place of his choosing.**

3.2

1 **3.4** The regional assembly shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, ~~except as otherwise provided by~~
2 ~~these bylaws or the bylaws of Synod.~~

3
4 **3.3**

5 **3.5** Representation: Each **voting member** congregation **or parish** ~~shall~~ **is entitled to** be represented at
6 this assembly by two **of their respective** voting delegates (one pastor and one layperson) and by ~~the~~
7 **their** advisory members of Synod (cf. **Bylaw 2.3**).

8
9 **3.4**

10 **3.6** ~~The regional vice president shall chair the assembly and~~ **The chair** shall appoint a secretary to record
11 the proceedings.

12
13 **3.5**

14 **3.7** Quorum ~~For a legal assembly of the region, the presence of~~ At least one-fourth of the voting
15 representatives **one-third of the voting member congregations represented by at least one of their**
16 **respective representatives (pastor or lay delegate)** shall be present **to conduct a meeting of the**
17 **regional assembly (Cf. Constitution XII.14).**

18
19 **3.6**

20 **3.8** The purpose of the regional assembly shall be:

21
22 ~~a. To study the needs of the region in mission and ministry;~~

23
24 ~~b. To hear and discuss the total needs of the district;~~

25 ~~c.~~

26 **a.** To be informed about major issues to come before the district convention;

27
28 ~~d.~~

29 **b.** To nominate from its region two (2) pastors **ministers of religion – ordained** for election by the
30 district convention to the office of regional vice-president in accordance with the provisions of
31 Michigan District Bylaw 5.12, and the Schedule of Elections. **and candidates for the board of**
32 **directors in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 5.13.**

33
34 ~~e.~~

35 **c.** To nominate from its region, **using a slate prepared by the regional nominating committee, two**
36 **(2) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, from the roster of the district and four**
37 **(4) lay persons the district nominating committee** from a slate prepared by the Regional
38 Nominating Committee, for election by the district convention to the board of directors of the
39 district. **(Cf. Bylaw 5.7c & d).**

40
41 ~~f. To nominate as specified in Michigan District Bylaw 5.8 c. and d.~~

42
43 **ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

44
45 **5.1 Officers.**

46 **a.** Elective Officers. The elective officers of the district shall be the president, ~~four vice-presidents~~
47 ~~{one vice-president from each region}, a secretary, a treasurer and the circuit counselors~~
48 **visitors.**

1 **b. Appointive Officer. The board of directors, in consultation with the president, shall appoint the**
2 **treasurer.**

3
4 **5.2** The elective board of the district shall be the board of directors.

5
6 **5.3** Term of Officers and Board **of Directors** Members.

7
8 a. The term of office of each elected **or appointed** officer shall be three (3) years. All officers other
9 than circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors** may be elected or appointed to the same office for four (4)
10 consecutive terms, after which a period of three (3) years shall elapse before ~~such person is~~ **they**
11 **are** again eligible for election or appointment to the same office, unless otherwise provided by
12 these bylaws. An officer, elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term, who serves two (2) or
13 more years shall be considered to have completed one (1) term. Circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors** may
14 serve an unlimited number of terms.

15
16 ~~c.b.~~ The president may be elected to succeed himself in office no more than three (3) times.

17
18 ~~b.c.~~ The term of office of each board **of directors** member shall be six (6) years. All board **of directors**
19 members may be elected or appointed to the same office for two (2) consecutive terms, after
20 which a period of six (6) years shall elapse before ~~such person is~~ **they are** again eligible for
21 election to the same that board, ~~unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws.~~ A board **of**
22 **directors** member ~~elected or~~ appointed to fill an unexpired term who ~~served~~ **serves** four (4) or
23 more years shall be considered to have completed one (1) term.

24
25 d. The board of directors shall be composed of four (4) ordained ministers, four (4) commissioned
26 ministers, and eight (8) laypersons with equal representation from each region of the district.
27 The size of the Church Extension **Fund** Board of Trustees shall be determined by its bylaws.

28
29 ~~e.~~ District Board members who move inter-regionally may complete their term of office.

30
31 **5.4** Salaried Executives Without Vote.

32
33 Executive level staff of the district and the chief executive officer for the Church Extension **Fund**
34 Board of Trustees are not eligible for voting membership on any board of the district. They shall not
35 at the same time hold an executive position to which they have been called and the office of
36 president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer of the district. If such staff is elected ~~by the~~
37 ~~convention~~ **or appointed** to one of these positions, he must resign his executive office to accept
38 such an election.

39
40 ~~5.5 If President is Unable to Serve.~~

41
42 ~~The duties and responsibilities of the office of president shall be assumed by the first vice-president~~
43 ~~whenever the board of directors determines that the president is unable to serve in that capacity~~
44 ~~because of his prolonged illness or disability, and the first vice-president shall remain as the acting~~
45 ~~president until the board of directors determines such illness or disability has been removed.~~

46
47 ~~5.6 Vacancies.~~

- 1 a. ~~A vacancy in the office of vice-president shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking vice-~~
2 ~~presidents. An acting vice president for the resulting vacancy may be appointed by the~~
3 ~~president, with the advice and consent of the board of directors, until the elections at the next~~
4 ~~district convention.~~
5
6 b. ~~A vacancy in the board of directors shall be filled by the board unless otherwise provided in these~~
7 ~~Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. The appointee shall serve the~~
8 ~~unexpired term.~~
9
10 c. ~~A vacancy in any other elective office (secretary, treasurer, etc.) shall be filled by appointment by~~
11 ~~the board of directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term to which he is appointed.~~
12
13 d. ~~The Church Extension Board of Trustees will fill vacancies in accordance with its own Bylaws.~~
14

15 **5.7**

16 **5.5 Time of Elections.**

- 17
18 a. The election of the president, the vice-presidents, the secretary, ~~the treasurer, the district elected~~
19 ~~members of the board of regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor,~~ approximately one-half of
20 the board of directors, ~~members~~ and the ratification of the circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors** shall take
21 place at each district convention. At alternate conventions ~~there shall also be elected~~ a district
22 member **shall be elected** to serve on the LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations.
23
24 b. Regional assemblies shall nominate for all positions with the exception of ~~district president,~~
25 ~~district secretary, district treasurer,~~ **the board of directors and the** Church Extension **Fund** Board
26 of Trustees, ~~and the board of regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor.~~
27
28 c. At their regional assemblies prior to the convention held in even-**numbered** years, the Metro East
29 Region and the West Region shall nominate for the board of directors.
30
31 d. At their regional assemblies prior to the convention held in odd-**numbered** years, the Metro West
32 Region and the North and East Region shall nominate for the board of directors.
33

34 **5.8**

35 **5.6 Committee on Nominations. Nominating Committee.**

- 36
37 a. The district convention shall elect a 12-member nominating committee consisting of one (1)
38 ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson from each region of
39 the district, and the president shall designate the chairman thereof. The three committee
40 members from each region shall serve as the regional nominating committee.
41
42 b. ~~The Committee on Nominations~~ **nominating committee** shall meet at the call of the **secretary**
43 ~~president of the district.~~
44
45 c. The regional nominating committee shall draw up from its region a list of candidates and
46 alternates ~~for the board of directors and~~ **for** the nominating committee in accordance with the
47 provisions of Michigan District Bylaws ~~5.8 and 5.9~~ **5.6 and 5.7** and the Schedule of Elections. The
48 regional nominating committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate,

as well as biographical data, and supply the regional assembly with this information. Following the regional nominations, the biographical data of persons nominated shall be transferred to the district nominating committee so that the district ballot may be drawn up.

- d. The district nominating committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for all other district offices, namely, the district secretary, treasurer, **and the Church Extension Fund** Board of Trustees, ~~and the board of regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor.~~ The nominating committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and transmit its final report to the secretary of the district in ample time to provide for its publication in a ~~pre-convention issue of the district's official publication and also in the official Convention Book of Reports and Overtures~~ **no later than three (3) months before the convention.** This report shall contain the occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and qualifications for the proposed office.
- e. The chairman or his designate shall submit the committee's report to the district convention.
- f. If between the regional assembly and the district convention a nominee becomes ineligible for election, **the elections committee will fill the vacancy on the ballot with the person who received the next-highest number of votes** ~~the nominating committee will fill the slate with a qualified candidate.~~
- g. The convention shall have the right to alter the ballot by amendment. The amendment procedure shall include a motion, a second, and a majority vote on the amendment. Any delegate making a nomination for the floor shall have secured prior written consent and biographical data from the candidate whom he wishes to nominate, as detailed in Michigan District Bylaw 5.68 c- & d. This material shall then be submitted to the district secretary.
- h. The chairman shall have on hand at the convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by his committee, for use if required if a new board is to be elected. Whenever possible, however, the committee on nominations should be informed in advance if any new board is likely to be elected at a district convention, so that it may have a slate of candidates in readiness.

5.9

5.7 Floor Committee on Elections.

- a. Elections shall be conducted by a floor committee on elections, appointed by the president before the convention. The secretary of the district shall furnish the committee a copy of suggested election procedures.
- b. The committee shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons.
- c. The committee may appoint tellers, who need not be voting delegates, to assist in conducting the elections. The chairman shall give the list of tellers to the secretary of the district, who shall announce them to the convention.

- d. A regional floor committee on elections shall be appointed by the vice-president of that region to conduct the nominating elections at the regional assemblies and whose duties shall be consistent with the district floor committee on elections.

5.10

5.8 Majority and Plurality of Votes.

- A majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

5.11

5.9 Nominations and Election of the President.

- a. The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod shall elect a president from among the clergy of the synod.
- b. Every voting member congregation of the Michigan District may nominate one pastor as a candidate for the office of district president.
- c. The nomination of each member congregation shall be submitted to the district secretary by a time determined by the district secretary to meet deadlines ~~in ample time~~ **no later than four (4) months prior to the opening of the district convention.**
- d. Candidates for the office of president shall be the five (5) persons receiving the largest number of nominations in this congregational action.
- e. The district secretary shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot.
- f. The district secretary shall prepare biographical information on the five candidates, ~~which is to be published in district periodicals no later than May 1, and in the Convention Book of Reports and Memorials~~ **which shall be submitted for publication no later than two (2) months prior to the opening of the district convention.**
- g. The district secretary shall submit the names of the five candidates for election of district president to the district convention.
- h. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by majority amendment.
- i. If no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped from the list and a new ballot taken. The procedure shall be continued until one (1) candidate has received a majority of the votes cast.

5.12

5.10 Nominations and Elections of Vice-Presidents.

- a. The Michigan District shall elect ~~four (4) regional vice-presidents~~ **one vice-president for each region** from the clergy roster of the ~~synod~~ **district with residence in the designated region.**

- 1
2 **b.** Every voting congregation of a region may nominate one pastor from its region as a ~~regional~~
3 candidate for the office of vice-president for its region.
4
5 **c.** The nomination shall be submitted to the ~~district~~ secretary no later than four (4) months prior to
6 the opening of the district convention.
7
8 **d.** The ~~district~~ secretary shall notify each nominee, secure his approval in writing, and secure
9 biographical information for the inclusion of the five (5) names receiving the most nominations
10 on the regional nominating ballot.
11
12 **e.** At the regional assemblies each region shall choose by ballot two (2) pastors as nominees for
13 election by the district convention to the office of regional vice-president.
14
15 **f.** Each voting delegate in the region may vote for two (2) nominees for vice-president, indicating his
16 first and second choice. The tellers, appointed by the chairman, shall score two (2) points for
17 each first choice and one (1) point for each second choice. The two (2) nominees receiving the
18 largest number of points shall be candidates. The tellers shall report the results of the meeting
19 to the chairman.
20
21 **g.** The chairman of the regional assemblies shall report to the secretary ~~of the district~~ the names of
22 the persons nominated for the office of vice-president along with the biographical data. The
23 ~~district~~ secretary shall transmit such names to the floor committee on elections.
24
25 **h.** The committee on elections shall recap the information provided on qualifications and experience
26 for each candidate and shall submit such information together with the ballot on which such
27 election is to take place.
28
29 **i.** The convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as
30 outlined in Michigan District Bylaw 5.68g.
31
32 ~~**j.** The convention shall elect one vice president from each region.~~

5.13

5.11 Ranking of Vice-Presidents.

37 After the ~~regional~~ vice-presidents have been elected, balloting will continue to determine their rank.
38 The names of all four (4) vice-presidents will constitute the ballot for the first vice-president, and
39 voting continues until one is elected by majority vote. (If one is not elected on the first ballot, the
40 name of the candidate who receives the smallest number of votes shall be dropped, and the
41 balloting continues in this fashion until one is elected by majority vote.) The remaining three names
42 constitute the ballot for second vice-president and the balloting continues as above. The two
43 remaining names constitute the ballot for third vice-president, and the one not elected becomes
44 fourth vice-president.
45

5.14

5.12 Election of Circuit Counselors ~~Counselors~~ **Visitors**.

The convention shall elect the circuit counselors **visitors** as provided by the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

~~5.15~~ The convention shall elect one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and two (2) laypersons to the board of regents of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, as provided by the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

5.13 Nominations of Board of Directors.

- a. Every voting congregation of a region nominating for the board of directors may nominate one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons from its region as candidates. (Cf. Bylaw 5.5c-d for the nominating schedule.)*
- b. The nominations shall be submitted to the secretary no later than four (4) months prior to the opening of the district convention.*
- c. The secretary shall notify each nominee, secure his approval in writing, and secure biographical information for the inclusion of the four (4) ordained ministers, four (4) commissioned ministers, and (8) laypersons receiving the most nominations on the regional nominating ballot.*
- d. At the regional assemblies each region shall choose by ballot two (2) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, and four (4) laypersons as nominees for election by the district convention.*
- e. Each voting delegate in the region may vote for two (2) ordained minister nominees, two (2) commissioned minister nominees, and four (4) layperson nominees. The two (2) ordained ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, and (4) laypersons receiving the largest number of votes shall be candidates. The tellers shall report the results of the meeting to the Chairman.*
- f. The chairman of the regional assemblies shall report to the secretary the names of the persons nominated for the board of directors, along with the biographical data. The secretary shall transmit such names to the floor committee on elections.*
- g. The committee on elections shall recap the information provided on qualifications and experience for each candidate and shall submit such information together with the ballot on which such election is to take place.*
- h. The convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment as outlined in Michigan District Bylaw 5.6g.*

~~5.16~~

5.14 Election of Other Officers.

- a. Election of all officers other than the president and vice-presidents will be held at a special period of the convention session determined and announced by the president in advance.*

1 **b.** The committee on elections shall submit one (1) ballot containing the nominees furnished by
2 the committee on nominations for all elective offices.

3
4 **c.** The list of nominees for each respective office, together with their experience and
5 qualifications, shall be distributed.
6

7 ~~**5.17**~~

8 **5.15** Order of Names on the Ballot.

9
10 The names of all candidates in all elections shall be placed on the ballot regionally and in
11 alphabetical order but without any distinctive mark, unless otherwise stipulated by these bylaws.
12

13 ~~**5.18**~~

14 **5.16** Notifications of Election to Office.

15
16 At the close of the convention, the secretary of the district shall notify every officer and board
17 member in writing of election.
18

19 ~~**5.19**~~

20 **5.17** Exception of Church Extension **Fund** Board of Trustees.

21
22 ~~Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of these Bylaws, the Church Extension Fund being a~~
23 ~~separate corporation created by the district, Members of the Church Extension **Fund** Board of~~
24 ~~Trustees shall be elected as provided by the **Fund's own** bylaws of the said Church Extension Fund~~
25 ~~and not by the provisions of these Bylaws.~~

26 ~~**5.20**~~

27 **5.18** Induction and Beginning of Term of Office.

28
29 **a.** All officers elected at the convention shall be inducted into their respective offices in an
30 installation ceremony (service) at the convention.

31
32 **b.** All officers shall begin their terms of office on October 1.
33
34

35 **ARTICLE VI –VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION IN OFFICE**

36
37 **6.1 Presidential Vacancy**

38 ~~**a.** In the event that the office of president of the district becomes vacant, **A vacancy in the office of**~~
39 ~~**president shall be filled by** the first vice-president, **who** shall succeed to the office of president~~
40 ~~and shall serve until the district convention.~~

41 ~~**6.3**~~

42 ~~**b.** Any **The first** vice-president, **who** by the terms of this article succeeds to the office of president, may~~
43 ~~decline such **the** office **of president**; in which event:~~
44

45 ~~**a.** 1.~~ The next ranking vice-president shall become president of the district.

46
47 ~~**b.** 2.~~ All other vice-presidents shall move up one rank.
48

- 1 ~~6.~~ 3. The declining vice-president shall fill the last ranking vacant vice-presidency.
- 2 ~~6.2~~
- 3 c. The successor need not terminate his position as pastor of the a congregation while completing
- 4 the **former president's** unexpired term .unless and until he is elected president by a convention.
- 5
- 6 ~~5.5~~ If President is Unable to Serve.
- 7 d. **If the board of directors determines that the president is temporarily unable to serve in that**
- 8 **capacity because of prolonged illness or disability**, the duties and responsibilities of the office
- 9 of president shall be assumed by the first vice-president, ~~whenever the board of directors~~
- 10 ~~determines that the president is unable to serve in that capacity because of his prolonged illness~~
- 11 ~~or disability, and the first vice-president~~ **who** shall remain as the acting president until the board
- 12 of directors determines such **that the** illness or disability has been removed.
- 13
- 14 ~~5.6~~ Vacancies.
- 15 a.
- 16
- 17 6.2 A vacancy in the office of vice-president shall be filled by advancing the lower ranking vice-
- 18 presidents. An acting vice-president for the resulting vacancy may be appointed by the president,
- 19 with the advice and consent of the board of directors, until the elections at the next district
- 20 convention.
- 21 ~~b.~~
- 22 6.3 A vacancy in the board of directors shall be filled by the board ~~unless otherwise provided in these~~
- 23 ~~bylaws or the bylaws of the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.~~ The appointee shall serve the
- 24 unexpired term.
- 25
- 26 6.4 **A vacancy in the office of circuit visitor between conventions shall be filled by appointment by the**
- 27 **president (Cf. Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.1).**
- 28 ~~c.~~
- 29 6.5 A vacancy in any other elective office (~~secretary, treasurer, etc.~~) shall be filled by appointment by
- 30 the board of directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term to which he is appointed.
- 31 ~~d.~~
- 32 6.6 The Church Extension **Fund** Board of Trustees will fill vacancies in accordance with its own bylaws.
- 33
- 34

35 ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

36

- 37 7.1 The board of directors, **with full authority** shall carry into execution the **resolutions** policies
- 38 adopted by the district in convention. ~~with full authority to carry them out and~~ **The board of**
- 39 **directors** shall create **policies** and monitor compliance to policies which govern the district and
- 40 **the board of directors shall monitor** the performance of the district president, who shall be in
- 41 charge of all district operations and staff. The board of directors shall carry out its functions as
- 42 described by Synod Bylaw 4.5.1.
- 43
- 44 7.2 The board of directors is authorized to elect from its membership a chairman, vice chairman and
- 45 secretary ~~and to appoint such committees as needed to carry out its work.~~
- 46
- 47 a. **The board of directors is authorized to appoint such committees and task forces as it**
- 48 **deems reasonable to assist it to carry out its work. Members of committees and task**

forces shall be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (MCL 450.2527(3)).

~~7.8~~

- b.** All ~~commissions and committees~~ **committees, commissions and task forces** of the district shall report regularly to the board of directors. Such report may be made in writing or by a representative in person, provided, however, that the board of directors may require the report to be made by a representative in person.

~~7.3~~

- c.** The board of directors is authorized to extend calls on behalf of the district.

~~7.4~~

7.3

The membership of the board of directors shall be divided into two classes, the voting members and advisory members:

- a.** The voting members of the board of directors shall consist of one (1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons elected from each of the regions within the district.
- b.** The advisory members shall consist of the president, regional vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, and the chairman of the circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors**.

~~7.5~~

7.4 The board of directors shall meet at least five (5) times per year.

~~7.7~~

- a.** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members and the majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient to carry a motion or resolution.

~~7.6~~

- b.** Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by the president of the district, the chairman of the board or any three (3) voting members of the board. ~~upon written~~ **Advance** notice **of special meetings shall be given** to all voting and advisory members.

- c. A member of the board of directors or of a committee designated by the board may participate in a meeting by means of telephone conference or other means of remote communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this subsection constitutes presence in person at the meeting.**

~~7.8~~

~~All commissions and committees of the district shall report regularly to the board of directors. Such report may be made in writing or by a representative in person, provided, however, that the board of directors may require the report to be made by a representative in person.~~

In ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATION

1 8.1 President. The president shall be the chief executive officer of the district, and between
2 conventions and in the recess of the board of directors, shall have the general control and
3 management of its business and affairs, subject to these bylaws. He shall preside at all district
4 conventions. The president shall carry out the duties and responsibilities assigned to his office
5 by the constitution and Bylaws of Synod (***Cf. Constitution Art. XI; Synod Bylaws 4.4.1ff.***). He
6 shall be an ex-officio member of all commissions or committees in the district with the right to
7 speak but not to vote. He shall have the right to designate any one of the vice-presidents to sit
8 in his place at meetings of the board of directors or any of the district's commissions or
9 committees. As the chief executive officer, he shall manage and supervise the district staff. The
10 office of district president shall be full-time. He shall not be in charge of a congregation, nor hold
11 a chair at any educational institution or fill any other full-time executive office of the district.
12 This prohibition does not apply when a vice president assumes the office of district president to
13 complete an unexpired term.

14
15 8.6 ~~Circuit Counselors~~ **Visitors**. Circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors** shall serve in accordance with the duties
16 assigned to this position as provided by the Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
17 During the year when there is no synod or district convention, circuit convocations will be held
18 under the leadership of the circuit ~~counselors~~ **visitors** and members of the circuit forum.

19
20
21 **ARTICLE IX - FISCAL AND AUDITING**

22 9.1 District Budget. The district budget shall be determined by the board of directors through its
23 policies, but no budget shall be approved which allows for expenditures greater than receipts
24 and other funds projected to be available in any given year.

25
26 9.2 Auditing. All the district's financial accounts shall be audited at least once every year by a firm of
27 certified public accountants designated by the board of directors.

28
29 9.3 No commission or committee of the district except the Church Extension Fund, which is a
30 subsidiary corporation of the district, shall maintain a separate bank account without the
31 consent of the board of directors. In the event such consent is given by the board of directors,
32 such account or accounts shall be audited at the same time and in the same manner as
33 heretofore provided.

34
35 9.4 The board of directors shall develop its own board policy manual for proper governance of the
36 district.

37
38 ~~9.5 Those directors duly elected or appointed to the board of directors who do not receive anything~~
39 ~~of value from this corporation for serving as a director other than reasonable per diem~~
40 ~~compensation and/or reimbursement for actual, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by~~
41 ~~such director in service of the capacity as a director shall be deemed a "volunteer director"~~
42 ~~for all purposes hereunder.~~

43
44 ~~9.6 A volunteer director shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or~~
45 ~~members for monetary damages for any breach of the director's fiduciary duty except for~~
46 ~~liability arising from or relating to:~~

47
48 ~~a. A breach of director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;~~

- b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551 (1);
- d. Any transaction from which a director derives an improper personal benefit.
- e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;
- f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.

9.7 — The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director occurring on or after January 1, 1988.

9.8 — The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1986, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation as director, officer, trustee, employee or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its board of directors, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify directors, officers, employees or agents consistent with the provisions of Public Acts 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

ARTICLE XI - RECONCILIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

11.1 The district shall follow the principles, structures, procedures, and membership described in Synod Bylaws 1.10 and **2.14 to 2.17** with regard to reconciliation and dispute resolution.

ARTICLE XII – ~~COMMITTEES~~ COMMISSIONS & TASK FORCES

12.1 The district convention ~~and may create special committees or task forces in order to carry out their responsibilities or for special purposes.~~

12.2 Standing committees are sub-units of and are appointed by their governing board; the three-year appointments are limited to three consecutive terms.

ARTICLE XIII – COMMISSIONS

13.1 The convention by resolution may from time to time may create commissions **and task forces** for special purposes.

13.2

12.2 The **Task forces and** commissions **established by a convention and** existing at the time of the adoption of these bylaws shall continue their powers, duties and jurisdiction until further resolution of the convention. **No future commission or task force shall have duration for longer than the time between conventions.**

~~13.3~~

~~12.3~~ The ~~A~~ convention resolution creating a commission **or task force** shall define its powers, duties, **duration** and jurisdiction and establish its budget.

~~13.4~~

~~12.4~~ A commission **or task force created by a convention** shall make a **periodic** reports of their ~~its~~ activities to the convention and ~~between conventions~~ to the board of directors ~~upon request~~ **between conventions** (Cf. Bylaw 7.2ab).

~~13.5~~

~~12.5~~ Members of commissions **and task forces** shall be members in good standing of congregations which are members of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ARTICLE ~~XV~~XIII – HANDBOOK (renumbering only)

ARTICLE ~~XV~~XIV – REPEAL AND SAVING CLAUSE (renumbering only)

ARTICLE XV – INDEMNIFICATION

~~9.5~~

15.1 *Those directors duly elected or appointed to the board of directors who do not receive anything of value from this corporation for serving as a director other than reasonable per diem compensation and/or reimbursement for actual, reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by such director in service of the capacity as a director shall be deemed a “volunteer director” for all purposes hereunder.*

~~9.6~~

15.2 *A volunteer director shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its membership and/or members for monetary damages for any breach of the director’s fiduciary duty except for liability arising from or relating to:*

- a. A breach of director’s duty of loyalty to the corporation or its members;*
- b. Actual omissions not in good faith or the involvement of intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;*
- c. An act in violation of the provisions of Michigan law, specifically MCLA 450.2551 (1);*
- d. Any transaction from which a director derives an improper personal benefit;*
- e. Any act or omission resulting in liability occurring before January 1, 1988;*
- f. Any act or omission that is grossly negligent.*

~~9.7~~

15.3 *The corporation shall assume all liability to any person or entity other than the corporation or its members for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director occurring on or after January 1, 1988.*

~~9.8~~

15.4 *The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of*

1986, shall have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation as director, officer, trustee, employee or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its board of directors, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify directors, officers, employees or agents consistent with the provisions of Public Acts 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

In ~~ARTICLE XVII-XVI~~ – AMENDMENTS (renumbered)

~~17.2~~

16.2 Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing to a convention of the district *upon review and approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod (Cf. Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 [a])*.

~~17.6~~

16.6 *Following a convention of the Synod, bylaw amendments necessary for compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod may be made by a two-thirds majority of the board of directors upon review and approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod (Cf. Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 [a]). All such amendments will be reported to the district. All proposed amendments to these Bylaws, before they are given effect, shall first be submitted to the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and the approval of that commission obtained as provided in the Bylaws of Synod.*

Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
Rev. David Davis, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 3-02
3 **SUBJECT:** To Memorialize the 2016 Synod Convention Regarding Voting
4 Privilege for Advisory Delegates
5 **REFERENCE:** Overture 3-04
6
7 **WHEREAS,** the LCMS has allowed commissioned ministers to be advisory delegates and have a voice at
8 district and synodical conventions; and
9
10 **WHEREAS,** each advisory delegate represents sixty rostered workers; and
11
12 **WHEREAS,** each district, including Michigan, financially supports these advisory delegates to attend the
13 synodical convention; and
14
15 **WHEREAS,** advisory delegates often attend district and Synod conventions and are underutilized;
16
17 **WHEREAS,** called commissioned ministers now serve as music ministers, directors of outreach, family
18 life directors, directors of Christian education, early childhood directors, worship arts coordinators,
19 principals, and teachers are currently on the synodical roster and members of Synod as individuals
20 serving in congregations of the Synod; and
21
22 **WHEREAS,** called commissioned ministers have a critical ministry impact in the lives of families as an
23 outreach arm of congregations; and
24
25 **WHEREAS,** the financial obligation of districts would be lessened by sending voting commissioned
26 delegates at a ratio higher than the current sixty-to-one ratio; therefore be it
27
28 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District memorialize Synod in 2016 to approve changes to the Constitution
29 & Bylaws of Synod enabling advisory delegates to become voting delegates at future district and
30 synodical conventions; and be it further
31
32 **Resolved,** that this ratio be increased to one voting commissioned minister for every 120 on the
33 synodical roster; and be it further
34
35 **Resolved,** that this increased ratio maintain a balance between voting pastoral delegates and lay
36 delegates while giving commissioned ministers voting representation; and be it further
37
38 **Resolved,** that this discussion begin at the 2016 Synodical Convention with a decision reached by the
39 2019 Synodical Convention; and be it finally
40
41 **Resolved,** that the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws be edited to reflect changes which allow
42 commissioned ministers to vote at future district and synodical conventions; and be it finally
43
44 **Resolved,** that both Synod and the Michigan District seek ways to engage all advisory delegates for
45 future conventions.
46
47 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
48 Rev. David Davis, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-03
SUBJECT: To Memorialize the 2016 Synod Convention to Give Equal Voting Privileges to All Ordained Ministers
REFERENCE: Overture 3-03

WHEREAS, all ordained ministers equally hold the office of the public ministry (John 20:21; *Treatise on the Primacy and Power of the Pope* 9); and

WHEREAS, nomenclature regarding the office of the public ministry (titles, responsibilities, etc.) are at the discretion of the local congregation; and

WHEREAS, assistant pastors who have been called and ordained in the office of the Holy Ministry are, according to the Constitution of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Article V, Section B, ineligible to vote at district meetings but are designated as “Advisory Members”; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention memorialize the 2016 Synod convention to give equal voting privileges to all ordained ministers.

Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
Rev. David Davis, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 3-04
3 **SUBJECT:** To Memorialize the 2016 Synod Convention regarding Bylaw
4 3.10.5.2. Election Process for College and University Board of
5 Regents
6 **REFERENCE:** Overture 3-06
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the board of regents of each school in the Concordia University System (CUS) currently
9 consists of members elected or appointed as follows (Synod Bylaw 3.10.5.2):
10

- 11 ○ One ordained minister, one commissioned minister and two laypersons elected at Synod
12 conventions;
- 13 ○ One ordained minister, one commissioned minister and two laypersons elected at the
14 geographical district convention;
- 15 ○ Four to eight laypersons appointed as voting members by the board of regents;
- 16 ○ The president of the district in which the college or university is located.
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the local and regional constituents of each CUS school are highly invested in the direction
19 and future of the CUS school, involved in the support and teamwork of the school's leadership. The local
20 influence and voice of the students (and their LCMS families) attending each school is essential;
21 therefore be it
22

23 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2016 LCMS Convention an overture
24 with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statement:
25

26 **Resolved**, that the elected members of the board of regents of each college and university of
27 the Concordia University System shall be elected at the geographical district convention.
28 Appointed members shall be appointed as the board of regents itself determines.
29

30 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
31 Rev. David Davis, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-05
SUBJECT: To Memorialize the 2016 Synod Convention regarding Bylaw 3.10.5.5.2. Election Process for College and University Presidents
REFERENCE: Overture 3-07

WHEREAS, the current process of election of a president of a Concordia University System (CUS) college/university now happens at a board of regents meeting of the given college/university, using the short list approved by the prior-approval panel (the president of Synod, the district president on the institution's board of regents, and the chair of the CUS board of directors); and

WHEREAS, the current bylaw provides that the panel may choose to remove names from the list but only with a two-thirds majority vote. When these votes come from the Synod president and the chair of the CUS board, it removes the process from the local and regional constituents of each CUS school; and

WHEREAS, the local and regional constituents of each CUS school are highly invested in the direction and future of the CUS school, involved in the support and teamwork of the school's leadership. The local influence and voice of the students (and their LCMS families) attending each school is essential; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2016 LCMS Convention an overture with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statement:

Resolved, that the approving party for the short list be the district president(s) on the institution's board of regents, who alone provides in the same fashion as he would to any congregation seeking a pastor within his district.

Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
Rev. David Davis, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 3-06
3 **SUBJECT:** To Memorialize the 2016 Synod Convention Regarding the
4 Composition of Convention Floor Committees
5 **REFERENCE:** Overture 3-02
6
7 **WHEREAS,** Scripture clearly speaks of all Christians as members of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9);
8 and
9
10 **WHEREAS,** the founders of the LCMS recognized the need for clergy and laity to share equally in the
11 decision-making process as the foundation of its church polity; and
12
13 **WHEREAS,** current practices used in appointing floor committees for Synod conventions have the
14 potential to disenfranchise our lay members of the royal priesthood; therefore be it
15
16 **Resolved,** that the Michigan District in convention memorialize the 2016 Synod convention to ensure
17 that there are equal numbers of voting lay and ordained members on all floor committees at future
18 Synod conventions.
19
20 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
21 Rev. David Davis, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-07
SUBJECT: To Encourage Annual Review by Employees of Their Reported Salary Information to Concordia Plans Services
REFERENCE: Overture 3-01

WHEREAS, errors can and have occurred on the Annual Compensation of Participating Workers' form submitted yearly by employers to Concordia Plan Services (CPS), which can result in reduced retirement benefits for workers; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Plan Services has made available to all enrolled workers a user portal at mycps.org which allows workers to review their salary histories as recorded by Concordia Plan Services based on the Annual Compensation of Participating Workers' form; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan District encourage enrolled workers to annually review their reported compensation through the mycps.org website and investigate any discrepancies.

Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
Rev. David Davis, Chairman

1 **COMMITTEE NAME:** ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 **OVERTURE NUMBER:** 3-08
3 **SUBJECT:** To Allow Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 7191 Imlay City Rd.,
4 Imlay City, MI 48444 to Change From Circuit 16 Macomb NW to
5 Circuit 13 Lapeer
6 **REFERENCE:** Overture 3-05
7
8 **WHEREAS,** Family of Christ Lutheran Church is located in Lapeer County, Mich. and is within the
9 geographical area of the Lapeer Circuit 13; and
10
11 **WHEREAS,** Family of Christ Church is located in a rural area which has different challenges than a
12 metropolitan area and has a commonality for ministry with the Lapeer Circuit; and
13
14 **WHEREAS,** Family of Christ is in a ministry covenant with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lapeer which is
15 located in Circuit 13 and is sharing the ministry; and
16
17 **WHEREAS,** the changing of Family of Christ to the Lapeer Circuit 13 would allow Family of Christ to
18 honor its covenant with St. Paul and facilitate that ministry to God's glory; therefore be it
19
20 **Resolved,** that Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Imlay City change from Circuit 16 Macomb NW to
21 Circuit 13 Lapeer.
22
23 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
24 Rev. David Davis, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-09
SUBJECT: To Recognize and Thank Those Who Serve in the Office of Circuit Visitor
REFERENCE: Overture 3-08

WHEREAS, the circuit visitor is the principal officer of the circuit and serves in accordance with the duties assigned to this position in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Bylaws of the Districts; and

WHEREAS, each circuit visitor shall assist the district president within the circuit (Bylaw 5.2.3), as follows:

- He shall serve under the direction of and be accountable to the district president and shall serve as his spokesman when so authorized and directed and shall assist him in doctrinal and spiritual supervision;
- He shall serve in a servant role;
- He shall seek to remind and encourage members of the circuit of their responsibilities as God's people and the privilege they have in being about His mission;
- He and any other officers of the circuit shall have the primary responsibility for maintaining liaison between the circuit and the Synod at the national and district levels;
- He shall be conversant with and supportive of synod-wide and district resolutions and programs;
- He shall seek to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among pastors, commissioned ministers, and congregations;
- He shall assist in the development and attainment of synod-wide mission and ministry emphases;
- He may, when requested to do so by the district president, serve as a mediator to effect reconciliation of disputes within the circuit not under dispute resolution of the Synod as outlined in section 1.10 of these bylaws;
- He shall regularly convene the pastors of his circuit for circuit conferences;
- He shall regularly report on his activities to the district president;
- The district president shall meet with the circuit visitors of the district at least once per year to discuss their work, to encourage them, and to conduct ongoing training for congregational and pastoral visits;
- The circuit visitor is authorized to draw on the district treasury for his expenses; and

WHEREAS, the circuit visitor shall, when requested to do so by the district president, serve as his representative in the triennial visitation of the congregations of the circuit; and

WHEREAS, the circuit visitor shall serve the pastors of the circuit as a collegial and brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of the ministry and of its great responsibilities (Bylaw 5.2.3.2), as follows:

- He shall encourage the pastors of the circuit in their preaching and teaching; in the exercise of church discipline in an evangelical manner; and in the proper supervision of Christian education and training in the parish.

- 1 • He shall encourage, in a brotherly manner, the pastors of the circuit in their spiritual
2 and family life.
3 • He shall encourage the pastors of the circuit to pursue both formal and informal
4 continuing professional education; and
5
6 **WHEREAS**, the circuit visitor shall assist the district president, as assigned in the ecclesiastical
7 supervision of the other members of the Synod in the circuit; and
8
9 **WHEREAS**, circuit visitors have faithfully served their circuit churches while seeking to fill vacancies
10 through the calling process; and
11
12 **WHEREAS**, most circuit visitors serve the circuit and the district, while actively serving their own
13 congregations; therefore be it
14
15 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in convention recognize the significant contribution made by the
16 circuit visitors of our district; and be it further
17
18 **Resolved**, that the pastors and congregations of the district continue to support and thank their own
19 circuit visitor; and be it finally
20
21 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District Convention assembly rise and thank God for the dedicated work of
22 our circuit visitors by singing the common Doxology.
23
24 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Administration, Structure, & Constitutional Matters
25 Rev. David Davis, Chairman